

Enhancing Stewardship of Our Coastal Environment

2003 COASTAL AMERICA
PROGRESS REPORT





COASTAL AMERICA
2002 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Background: In response to the need to protect, preserve and restore our coastal heritage the Coastal America Partnership was established by a Memorandum of Understanding in 1992 and confirmed by the Memorandum of Understanding of 1994. This 2002 Memorandum of Understanding supersedes the earlier versions.

Purpose: The purpose of Coastal America is to: (1) protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal ecosystems through existing Federal capabilities and authorities; (2) collaborate and cooperate in the stewardship of coastal living resources by working together and in partnership with other Federal programs, and by integrating Federal actions with state, local, tribal government, and non-governmental efforts; and (3) provide a framework for action that effectively focuses expertise and resources on jointly identified problems to produce demonstrable environmental and programmatic results that may serve as models for effective management of coastal living resources.

Statutory Basis: This interagency partnership operates within existing authorities and serves to link many Federal statutes that affect coastal resources including but not limited to: Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), Water Resources Development Act, and National Environmental Policy Act. This Memorandum of Understanding does not amend or abridge any existing statutory authorities.

General Scope: Coastal America provides a forum for interagency collaborative action and a mechanism to facilitate regional action plans to protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal living resources. Partnership efforts will continue to emphasize the shared coastal concerns of habitat loss and degradation, nonpoint source pollution, and contaminated sediments. Other priority issues will be addressed as appropriate. To facilitate program activities, the partners have established a Principals Group, a National Implementation Team (NIT), Regional Principals, Regional Implementation Teams (RITs), and the Coastal America coordinating office. In addition, the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELCC) network and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) have been established in collaboration with non-governmental partners. The partners ensure their organization's adequate regional and national representation and participation in these endeavors.

Responsibilities: The Principals establish overall policy for the Coastal America partnership. The Principals are senior policy representatives of the partnership agencies at the sub-cabinet level. The Chair of the Principals Group is designated by the Partnership. The group meets semiannually at a minimum. Similarly, the Regional Principals are senior policy representatives of the partnership agencies at the regional level.

The NIT members represent their respective agencies at national coordinating meetings, provide advice to the Coastal America office, represent Coastal America in various forums, participate on special workgroups as necessary and explore and facilitate coordination of national, inter-regional and other large-scale projects. The members are senior national-level managers from the appropriate operating elements of the partnership agencies. The NIT is chaired by the Director of the Coastal America office. The team meets monthly at a minimum.

The RITs are the primary operating units for Coastal America and provide forums for interagency consultation and action. The RIT members identify or develop regional strategies for joint action and facilitate mechanisms for their implementation. The members are senior regional-level managers from the appropriate operating elements of the partnership agencies. The RIT chairs are elected on a rotating basis by the respective teams. The teams meet quarterly at a minimum.

The CELCC network creates a partnership between the federal partners and marine education centers of excellence. The network includes aquatic and other marine science-based institutions. The primary goal of the Learning Centers is to educate and involve the public in protecting our nation's coastal ecosystems.

The CWRP is a voluntary public-private partnership in which corporations join forces with federal and state agencies to restore wetlands and other aquatic habitats. The objective of the partnership is to reverse the degradation of America's fresh and saltwater wetlands and other aquatic habitats. The partnership also involves local communities, non-profit organizations and academia.

The Coastal America office serves to coordinate the activities related to the purpose of the partnership mission. The office provides the external point of contact for the partnership and facilitates the activities of the Principals, NIT and RITs, CELCCs and CWRP. In addition, the office is a catalyst for development and facilitation of national projects and products, and education and training activities.

Funding: Each fiscal year, the partners identify those authorities under which multi-agency, intergovernmental projects can be funded. Partners will endeavor, where appropriate and consistent with their needs, to afford priority within their programs to projects meeting Coastal America criteria. All funding arrangements under this agreement will be consistent with any applicable restrictions on interagency financing.

Reports and Documentation: On an annual basis the Coastal America office prepares and submits a progress report to the Principals, which identifies management actions undertaken, and evaluates the effectiveness of program activities.

Duration and Effect: This Memorandum of Understanding is effective as of the date of signature by all parties. This MOU shall be reviewed periodically by the parties at least once every three years to determine whether it should be revised, renewed or canceled, and may be amended by mutual written agreement.

Dispute Resolution: Nothing herein is intended to conflict with any of the federal agency partners' existing administrative orders, regulations, or legal authorities. At the first opportunity for review of the MOU, any necessary changes will be accomplished either by amendment to this MOU or by entering into a new MOU, whichever is deemed expedient and in the interest of all federal agency partners.

Approval: This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into and made effective as of the date latest in time indicated below.

James L. Connaughton 11/26/02
Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President

Mark Rey 11/25/02
Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment
Department of Agriculture

Roy A. Bernardi 11/27/02
Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development
Department of Housing and Urban Development

John F. Turner 11/25/02
Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Department of State

George S. Dunlop 11/27/02
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Department of the Army

P. Lynn Scarlett 12/11/02
Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget
Department of the Interior

Emil Frankel 12/17/02
Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy
Department of Transportation

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr. 11/29/02
Vice-Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere
Department of Commerce

H.T. Johnson 11/26/02
Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment)
Department of the Navy
Executive Agent for Department of Defense

G. Tracy Mehan, III 11/27/02
Assistant Administrator for Water
Environmental Protection Agency



COASTAL
AMERICA...

A
PARTNERSHIP
FOR
ACTION

ENHANCING STEWARDSHIP
OF OUR COASTAL
ENVIRONMENT

2003
COASTAL AMERICA
PROGRESS REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



*W*elcome to the Coastal America Partnership! I am pleased to present this 2003 Progress Report, highlighting the activities of Coastal America over the course of the past year.

The Coastal America Partnership provides a strong framework for effective collaboration within the Federal government. Our partnership focuses on securing comprehensive solutions to complex challenges by enlisting the combined effort of multiple agencies. President Bush strongly supports Coastal America and similar partnerships as an effective and efficient means to accomplish long-term coastal and marine protection.

2003 was an exciting year for Coastal America. The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership has expanded to include over 260 members, and the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers continue to fulfill their mission to improve public understanding of the coastal environment. Our Principals team has made considerable progress in several areas, and we expect to announce shortly the results of our work in determining a series of goals and measures for the Partnership.

With the U.S. Ocean Commission poised to provide the first holistic view of ocean policy in the U.S. in over thirty years, I believe that we are approaching a defining moment in the way we think about our oceans. The Coastal America partners intend to be at the forefront of national thought concerning ocean and coastal policy. We will continue to restore aquatic habitats, promote public understanding of coastal issues, and, most importantly, bring together the range of people working toward common environmental goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Connaughton', written in a cursive style.

James Connaughton
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality,
Executive Office of the President, and
Chair, Coastal America Partnership

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“It is the mission of the Federal interagency Coastal America partnership to protect, preserve and restore the Nation’s coastal ecosystems through collaborative action and partnership.”

Mission Statement of the Coastal America Partnership, as agreed upon by the Coastal America Principals, June 2003

2003 COASTAL AMERICA PROGRESS REPORT



I. THE COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP

“Effective management of our coastal and marine areas is critical to the health of our marine ecosystems. By utilizing traditional policies and new, innovative approaches that employ market forces, partnerships, performance standards, and incentives for stewardship, we can achieve this goal.”

James L. Connaughton,
Chairman of the
Council on
Environmental Quality

Capitol Hill Oceans
Week, Washington, D.C.,
June 11–12, 2003

WHAT IS COASTAL AMERICA?



Coastal America is an action-oriented, results driven process aimed at restoring and preserving vital coastal ecosystems and addressing our most critical environmental issues. The Coastal America Partnership was launched in 1991 by then-President George H.W. Bush and formalized in 1992 with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by nine sub-cabinet level agency representatives. These representatives

committed their agencies to work together and integrate their efforts with state, local, and non-governmental activities.

The Coastal America MOU was updated most recently in November 2002 under the Chairmanship of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. With a goal of better management of coastal resources, the Coastal America partners pledge to coordinate their statutory responsibilities and combine their resources and expertise.

The collaborative process used by Coastal America brokers skills and leverages funding to enhance problem solving, allowing projects to be implemented more cost effectively and more quickly. The result of these efforts has been to maximize the benefits and minimize the costs, both environmental and economic, of addressing complex coastal problems.

COASTAL AMERICA FEDERAL PARTNERS

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of the Air Force
- Department of the Army
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior
- Department of the Navy
- Department of State
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Executive Office of the President

THE COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP — PUTTING THE PIECES INTO PLACE

Trying to tackle environmental issues can seem like putting the pieces together to a puzzle. Imagine that the completed puzzle is a free-flowing river with fish swimming upstream unimpeded. Or visualize the finished product as a coastal estuary that not only supports a multitude of plant and animal life but also has a wetland that purifies our drinking water and provides flood protection for nearby homeowners. Our completed puzzle may be a natural resource of another kind. Picture our children learning about the threats to our oceans when they visit an aquarium and what they can do to help, or high school students at ocean conferences tackling the environmental issues of today to prevent more pressing problems tomorrow.

Everyone wants to put the pieces into place to complete the puzzle and create a positive outcome; however, no single entity holds enough of the pieces. The Coastal America Partnership provides the mechanism to put all of the separate pieces into place. Coastal America is about bringing together people from a variety of organizations — from federal agencies, state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and industry. Because problems are often broad in scope, the Coastal America Partnership includes people with backgrounds as varied as their affiliations — scientists, policy makers, economists, legal experts, educators, and others.

The most important fact to understand about Coastal America is that it is not a single agency, nor is it a program. Coastal America is, in its very essence, a partnership of numerous departments who pledge to coordinate their statutory responsibilities and combine their resources and expertise to better manage our coastal resources. Thus, Coastal America is a virtual organization, and a way of doing business more efficiently and effectively.



HOW DOES COASTAL AMERICA OPERATE?

“To protect wetlands and coastal woodlands, the pathway to progress lies in partnerships because of the mosaic of jurisdictions and medley of users.”

**P. Lynn Scarlett,
Assistant Secretary
for Policy,
Management and
Budget, Department
of the Interior**

**Coastal America
Annual Retreat,
San Diego, California,
June 16–19, 2004**

Coastal America works through a national, regional, and local team structure that brings together key participants at each level. This collaborative approach enables national policy matters to be identified and resolved, regional plans to be developed and implemented, and local projects to be completed in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

The Principals Group, charged with establishing overall policy for the Coastal America Partnership, is the senior decision-making arm of Coastal America. The Group consists of senior policy officials, including Under or Assistant Secretaries, from the federal partner agencies. The Group meets quarterly to review progress and chart the course for future Coastal America actions.

The National Implementation Team (NIT), directly under the Principals Group, is composed of senior level representatives from the headquarters of federal partner agencies. The NIT meets monthly to implement the policy directives of the Principals, as well as encourage collaboration among the partner agencies.

The Regional Implementation Teams (RITs) are the keystone of the Coastal America process. The RITs carry out the partnership mission by making on-the-ground projects happen. The RITs include senior staff of the federal partner agencies, along with state representatives, who identify projects, develop restoration strategies, and craft site-specific coastal restoration strategies that generate the synergy for collaboration. The inclusion of personnel from various federal and state agencies provides a combination of resources and authorities to address coastal problems in a holistic and integrated fashion. The RITs are further charged to take a watershed approach to project implementation.

Local Project Implementation Teams are created to implement specific Coastal America projects. The teams consist of federal, state, local, nongovernmental and private-sector members.

This cooperative approach to project implementation promotes cost-effective, creative solutions and results that no single organization could accomplish alone. Working in partnership, Coastal America projects have restored or protected hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands, reduced pollutants entering coastal waterways, and protected numerous species of aquatic life.

THE COASTAL AMERICA PRINCIPALS

The Coastal America Principals engaged in a wide range of activities during 2003, including deriving a series of shared goals and measures for the Coastal America Partnership, exploring options for institutionalization of the Partnership, and determining better uses of Department of Defense lands for conservation purposes. The Principals called for Coastal America to undertake a strategic assessment to examine the goals and facilitation of the Coastal America Partnership. The Principals also determined the recipients of the 2002 Coastal America Awards.

The Principals met on three occasions during 2003. Admiral James D. Watkins, Chair of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, joined the Principals at their June meeting. The Principals and Admiral Watkins discussed the forthcoming Commission Report, along with appropriate strategies for implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

Another significant accomplishment occurred in June when the Principals agreed on a mission statement for the Coastal America Partnership: "It is the mission of the Federal interagency Coastal America partnership to protect, preserve and restore the Nation's coastal ecosystems through collaborative action and partnership."



Admiral James D. Watkins, Chair of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, meets with the Coastal America Principals at their June meeting.

“It is imperative that the nation fosters an ocean-literate society that is equipped to deal with existing and impending issues and which is able to make choices and influence decisions based on knowledge.”

Admiral James D. Watkins, Chair of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

The National Academies/Ocean Studies Board, Washington, D.C., November 5, 2003

THE 2003 COASTAL AMERICA ANNUAL RETREAT



Participants at the 2003 Annual Retreat.

The Southwest Regional Implementation Team hosted over 50 partners at the *2003 Coastal America Retreat* in San Diego, California. From June 16–19, partners gathered from across the country to discuss lessons learned, new initiatives, and ways to further improve the Coastal America process.



A ride on the Pilot during the 2003 Annual Retreat.

Over the course of the retreat, attendees participated in discussions on the following topics: Developing Shared Goals and Measures for the Coastal America Partnership; Supporting the Regional Implementation Teams; Establishing Priorities and a Budget Crosscut; Improving the Partnership Process; and Elements of an Executive Order.

Participants had the opportunity to discuss the Partnership during several field trips. An evening cruise around San Diego Bay aboard the *Medea* and the *Pilot* highlighted the Navy's role in Bay resource management. Attendees also traveled to the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) and Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge.

TOOLS AND PROGRAMS OF THE COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP



The Coastal America Partnership utilizes a cadre of tools and programs to facilitate its mission. These tools and programs include the *Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership* (CWRP), the network of *Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers* (CELCS), military involvement in coastal restoration projects, and the *Coastal America Partnership Awards* program. The newest tool of the Partnership is the *International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership* (ICWRP), which builds upon the success of CWRP.

THE CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

In 2000, Coastal America joined forces with private companies to develop the *Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership*. The CWRP is a way for environmentally responsible companies to reach out to their communities, beyond the boundaries of their own facilities. It is not a substitute for corporate compliance with federal permitting requirements. Instead, it allows private companies to make voluntary donations of funds or in-kind services to a non-profit organization. These funds or in-kind services are then used, at the company's direction, to help support coastal habitat restoration or public education projects that have been selected and endorsed by the Coastal America RITs.

Often, private funds are used to help communities, in which the companies do business, to make the required local match for federal funds for community-based restoration projects. This makes for a win-win situation for the companies, the communities, and the federal and state governments. All of the parties are able to maximize the environmental benefits of each dollar provided and better serve their communities and the environment.

The CWRP is structured in parallel to Coastal America, with a National Advisory Council, Regional Advisory Councils and State Advisory Boards. In 2003, Duke Energy and The Gillette Company served as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the National Advisory Council.



The Massachusetts Chapter of CWRP donated funds and services valued at over \$90,000 to restore tidal flow under the Bay Colony Rail Line.

Now in its fourth year of implementation, the CWRP has over 180 corporate partners and 80 non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. At the end of 2003, there were over 80 CWRP-endorsed projects underway, with 30 completed projects and an additional dozen scheduled for completion in 2004. Individual CWRP projects for 2003 are highlighted in the regional progress reports later in this document (see the Appendices for complete list of CWRP projects and partners).

CWRP ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

On June 19, 2003, Coastal America Retreat participants and representatives from over a dozen corporations participated in a CWRP Reception at San Diego's Sea World. Various CWRP participants, including ENSR and Restore America's Estuaries, spoke about their experiences with the Partnership and discussed reasons for corporations to participate.

“The corporate partnership is an excellent example of how federal and state agencies can communicate, consult and cooperate toward the goal of conservation.”

J. Steven Griles,
Deputy Secretary,
Department of
the Interior

**Texas CWRP
Kick-off Event,
Houston, Texas,
February 18, 2003**



James L. Connaughton presents the 2002 Coastal America Special Recognition Award to Jerry Jasinowski, President of the National Association of Manufacturers on February 7, 2003.

On February 7, 2003, James L. Connaughton, Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Chair of Coastal America, was the special guest speaker for the Resources, Environment and Regulation Policy Group Meeting at the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Board of Directors Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Mr. Connaughton presented the 2002 Special Recognition Award to the NAM for their leadership role in sponsoring the CWRP at the national level.

THE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The success of CWRP has been replicated outside of the U.S., including an effort in Canada where the *Eastern Habitat Joint Venture* has been working with Duke Energy Subsidiary Maritimes to model the CWRP for a Canadian application. About ten companies are providing money for duck habitat research projects. Given the international interest in this public-private program, Coastal America has embarked with several partners to create the *International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership* (ICWRP).



The ICWRP Partnership focuses on wetlands and other aquatic habitats as vital natural resources. Their health is invaluable to society, our shared environmental heritage, and the world's economy. According to a United Nations *et al.* report, the

world has lost more than half of its wetlands, and more acres are being lost every year. Given this, Coastal America has partnered with The Gillette Company, the United Nations Foundation, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, The Nature Conservancy, and the Coastal America Foundation to protect, enhance and restore critically important wetlands, coasts and waterways around the world.

The ICWRP model utilizes a two-pronged approach to address both small- and large-scale projects. Small-scale projects are accomplished through cooperation with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Large-scale projects are facilitated by the United Nations Foundation through the World Heritage Program.



Photo: The Nature Conservancy

World Heritage Sites such as Sian Ka'an, Mexico, will benefit through corporate support from ICWRP.

The intent of taking CWRP internationally is to fully engage the private sector and develop a cohesive multi-stakeholder partnership that joins technical, administrative and financial resources to more efficiently and effectively improve critical aquatic habitats around the world.

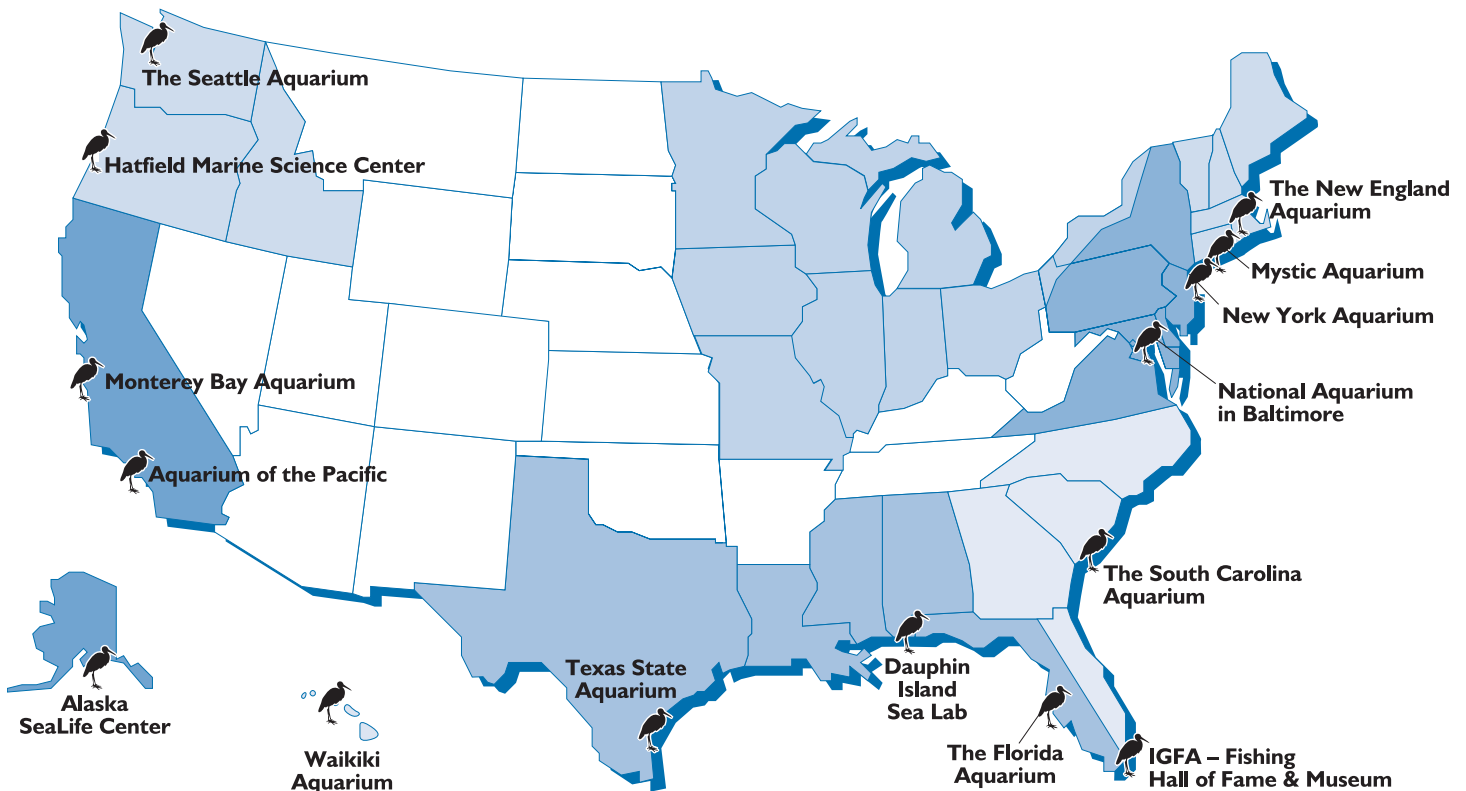
ICWRP is expected to be formally launched in late March 2004, in a ceremony at the *White Water to Blue Water International Conference* in Miami, Florida. Coastal America looks forward to working with these new partners to expand the success of the CWRP to different areas of the world.

THE COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

In the mid-1990's, discussions among the Coastal America partners on how to increase public awareness and understanding of coastal and marine issues led to a collaboration between Coastal America and marine learning institutions around the country. In 1996, Coastal America formalized the *Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center* network, which is comprised of a number of the nation's premier aquaria and marine learning institutions. Building on their role as public education facilities, the CELCs use the resources of the partnership to expand the educational opportunities they offer their communities. With the combined resources, CELCs are able to increase public awareness and understanding about coastal and marine issues and implement community-based restoration projects.

There are currently 15 designated CELCs in thirteen coastal states (see map below).

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS
(CELCS)



I. THE COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP

Each CELC decides how they want to collaborate with Coastal America's federal partners. Federal agency staff work with the CELCs on a variety of projects:

- Providing technical expertise, equipment, and resources for a community-based wetland restoration and monitoring program;
- Providing lectures, field trips and a day aboard a federal research vessel;
- Participating in student ocean conferences, where students discuss, debate, and interact with federal partners involved in marine conservation and management;
- Sponsoring workshops on ocean and coastal issues, where the local community comes together to discuss management concerns that affect ocean and coastal uses; and
- Providing speakers and information about careers in marine science, conservation, and management at the CELC's Career and Ocean Exploration days.

“To ensure the long-term viability of our ocean, the animals that live there, and ultimately the planet, we must learn more and educate and inspire the public about this great frontier. Only then can we develop intelligent and sustainable management policies that will ensure a healthy planet for future generations.”

**Jerry Schubel,
Chief Executive
Officer, Aquarium
of the Pacific**



Students learn about the coastal environment during a field trip at a Regional Student Ocean Conference at the IGFA in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

COASTAL AMERICA STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

In October 2003, a subcommittee of the Coastal America Principals approved a project plan for a *Strategic Assessment of the Coastal America Partnership and Development of a Supporting Program Business Plan/Enterprise Model*.

The Strategic Assessment focuses on the development of a set of strategic and outcome goals for the Partnership, together with associated performance measures. The assessment is also intended to identify priorities for each of the nine Coastal America regions, establish national and regional work plans, recommend appropriate management procedures and processes, and develop annual reporting systems and procedures for the Partnership.

Bryon Griffith, Acting Director of the U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Office and Chair of the Coastal America Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team, is leading the assessment process, which is expected to conclude in 2004.

The CELCs conducted a strong program of education and outreach during 2003. A key educational event, the tenth in a series of regional *Student Ocean Conferences* (SOCs), was held in November at the International Game Fish Association Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum (IGFA) in Dania Beach, Florida. In November 2000, the Coastal America Foundation, partnering with Coastal America and its network of CELCs, entered a grant agreement with the National Geographic Society to sponsor regional SOCs at CELCs across the nation. Since then, a total of 10 have been completed, including this year's event at IGFA.

The grant agreement stipulated that the series would culminate in a *National Student Summit on Ocean Issues* (NSSOI). Plans were formulated this year to host the NSSOI in Washington D.C. in January 2004. Each Learning Center developed criteria and selected a student delegation and teacher to represent their CELC at the NSSOI. The CELC marine educators spent the month of December 2003 guiding students in pre-Summit preparations including conducting research into the marine and coastal environment, interviewing regional scientists, and preparing presentations for the Summit.

The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium (NRMRA) began the process in 2003 to become the 16th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. The NRMRA, expected to be designated by the Coastal America Principals in 2004, would be the first inland Learning Center for the Coastal America Partnership. Its missions contribute to public understanding of the interrelatedness between inland activities and the state of our ocean and coastal areas.

More information on the variety of outreach activities, workshops, and regional student conferences for individual CELCs is provided in the regional progress reports later in this publication. CELC contact information is also available in the Appendices.

MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

Coastal America helps the military agencies accomplish their missions in three ways: with military operations; with environmental stewardship of military lands; and with training exercises and environmental restoration off-site of military lands. Examples include the removal of dams or other obstructions to reopen rivers and streams to anadromous fish and restoration of native species and habitat on military lands to improve the health and function of wetlands and coastal areas.

In addition, Coastal America supports the military's *Innovative Readiness Training* (IRT) program and the *Community Relations* program to support coastal restoration projects identified by Coastal America's Regional Implementation Teams. To qualify under the IRT program, the military's role in the restoration project must meet a mission essential training objective, such as construction or demolition.

“The Dingley Island Project is a model for how people and communities can solve their problems through collaborative effort.”

**John Baldacci,
Governor of Maine**

**Dingley Island
Causeway
Dedication,
Harpwell, Maine,
September 30, 2003**

MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN COASTAL AMERICA PROJECTS

The *Dingley Island Tidal Flow Restoration Project* reestablished natural tidal flow between the clam-flats on the north and south sides of the Dingley Island causeway barrier. A solid causeway built in 1950 blocked the current flow between the mainland and Dingley Island, resulting in silt accumulation and unsuitable conditions for soft-shell clams. Through the construction of a bridge to replace the solid causeway, the Dingley Island project restored 45 acres of habitat for soft-shell clams. In addition to improving the habitat conditions for soft-shell clams, lower estuarine fisheries, such as striped bass and herring, will benefit from the restored continuous tidal flow along the mile-long channel.

Contributors to the successful project included the Maine Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Coastal America’s Northeast Regional Implementation Team, NOAA’s Restoration Center, and the Navy’s Innovative Readiness Training program — the Seabees from NMCB-27.



The Navy Seabees (Innovative Readiness Training program) from NMCB-27 provided equipment and labor to build the bridge to restore tidal flow to Dingley Island, ME.



The completed bridge, which allows tidal flow restoring 45 acres of clam flats near Dingley Island, ME.

2003 COASTAL AMERICA AWARDS PROGRAM

Every year Coastal America presents Partnership, Spirit and Special Recognition Awards. The Partnership Award recognizes outstanding partnership efforts or multi-agency projects that protect and restore coastal ecosystems. Teams nominated to receive this prestigious award are those whose efforts demonstrate an innovative or unique way of accomplishing environmental restoration and preservation and are exemplary of the Coastal America process of collaboration. Teams nominated to receive Spirit Awards are those whose efforts demonstrate the Coastal America spirit of teamwork and are poised to address challenging coastal issues. The Special Recognition Award recognizes outstanding NGOs for their demonstrated leadership in protecting and restoring coastal resources.

A diverse array of projects were recognized for their outstanding partnership efforts in 2003, including on-the-ground restoration projects, habitat conservation efforts, and education and outreach events. The 2003 award winners are listed in the table below. Individual projects, such as the Smelt Hill Dam Removal Project, are also described later in this publication in their respective regions.

2003 COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

- Smelt Hill Dam Removal Project — Maine (Nov. 14, 2003)
- Alien Limu Group — Alien Algae Research and Removal Project — Hawaii (Oct. 10, 2003)
- OSV Anderson Partnership — Massachusetts/Connecticut/Maine (Nov. 5, 2003)
- Poplar Island Environmental Restoration — Maryland (Nov. 3, 2003)
- Project GreenShores — Florida (Nov. 6, 2003)
- Partners to Revitalize Glen Cove's Waterfront — New York (Sep. 9, 2003)
- Cameron Creole Watershed — Brackish Marsh Creation Project — Louisiana (Oct. 20, 2003)
- Removal of Derelict Fishing Gear from Northern Puget Sound — Washington (Sep. 15, 2003)
- US Virgin Islands Marine Park Advisory Committee — US Virgin Islands (Oct. 23, 2003)

SPIRIT AWARDS

- Baytown Nature Center — Texas (Sep. 23, 2003)
- Damde Meadows Salt Marsh Restoration Team — Massachusetts (Spring 2004)
- Karnowsky Creek Stream Restoration Program — Oregon (Winter 2003)
- Alabama Coastal Foundation Cypress Tree Planting — Alabama (Sep. 23, 2003)
- IGFA–AmeriCorps Mitigation Project for Birch State Park — Florida (Oct. 24, 2003)
- Protecting Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat on the Last Frontier — Alaska (Oct. 14, 2003)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

- The Trustees of the Reservations — Massachusetts (Spring 2004)

II. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

“The Coastal America Partnership Award is a testimonial to the people of Glen Cove that all of us, together, have been ‘getting it right’ in the transformation of our waterfront.”

Mary Ann Holzkamp,
Mayor of Glen Cove,
New York

**Coastal America
Partnership
Award Ceremony,
Glen Cove, New York,
September 9, 2003**

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Coastal America’s nine Regional Implementation Teams (RITs) are composed of regional representatives from each of the partnership agencies. These RITs set priorities, develop strategies, and coordinate efforts across geographic and political borders.

The RITs focus on site-specific projects that are representative of broader environmental problems in each region. Each RIT has developed strategies appropriate to the participating agencies and stakeholders of the region. These strategies guide the approach and the work of the RIT. Within each strategic plan, the regional team sets priorities based on the needs of the region.

In developing project strategies, regional teams utilize various Coastal America tools and programs. The CWRP program provides invaluable private-sector support to projects that otherwise may not be undertaken. The CELCs interact with the public in a region and oftentimes conduct restoration projects in cooperation with the RITs.

Hundreds of projects have been undertaken since the creation of Coastal America in 1992. Some are now complete and providing new ecological benefit or restored productivity to local ecosystems. Others are currently in the planning stages.

REGIONAL PROGRESS

The following regional progress reports illustrate the diversity of projects undertaken and the tangible results from taking a collaborative approach to resource management and conservation.



Northeast

The Northeast Region

- Maine
- Vermont
- New Hampshire
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- Connecticut



THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Throughout 2003, the Northeast Regional Implementation Team (NERIT) delivered federal and state services to communities conducting aquatic habitat restoration and education projects. Many projects were completed in 2003, including several projects that have provided excellent training for military personnel. Each of the coastal New England states had very active Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership chapters this year, and several CWRP projects were awarded Coastal America Partnership awards.

The success of NERIT is the long-standing leadership in each of the federal and state agencies. Ten years of collaboration have allowed each NERIT partner to be knowledgeable in other agency programs. When any NERIT collaborator encounters a new project, the team is able to quickly identify the best match to federal funding sources. Local sponsors then contact the

appropriate agency. The drive and initiative of NERIT is the real success story. The NERIT partners are all motivated to make a difference in the ecological productivity of the region.

THE EASTERN POINT SALT MARSH PROJECT

In November of 2003, Massachusetts Audubon completed work on the *Eastern Point Salt Marsh Project*, a restoration project in one of New England's oldest and most important fishing ports, Gloucester, Massachusetts. The restoration was a priority project of the Coastal America Partnership.



Prior to project implementation, virtually no salt water entered the marsh. The installation of a culvert restored natural tidal flushing, allowing the marsh to once again support salt-water species. The project was one of the few in New England that leveraged direct financial support from the fishing industry via the Ocean Trust.

The project was supported with over \$45,000 in grants from the Fish America Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program and the Ocean Trust. Other support was provided by the NOAA Restoration Center, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program, the National Fisheries Institute, the Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, and others.

Construction of a culvert in the Eastern Point Salt Marsh.

II. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE DAMDE MEADOWS SALT MARSH PROJECT

“Caring for our wetlands is critical to the environmental and economic health of the coastal communities that all New Englanders treasure. By joining forces with our many public and private partners, we can restore a significant part of our wetland heritage and maintain it for future generations.”

**Ellen Roy Herzfelder,
Secretary,
Massachusetts
Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs**

**Damde Meadows
Salt Marsh
Restoration Project
Dedication, Hingham,
Massachusetts,
May 16, 2003**



Damde Meadows before restoration activities.



Tidal flow created through the installation of culverts, restoring Damde Meadows to a natural salt marsh, Hingham, MA.

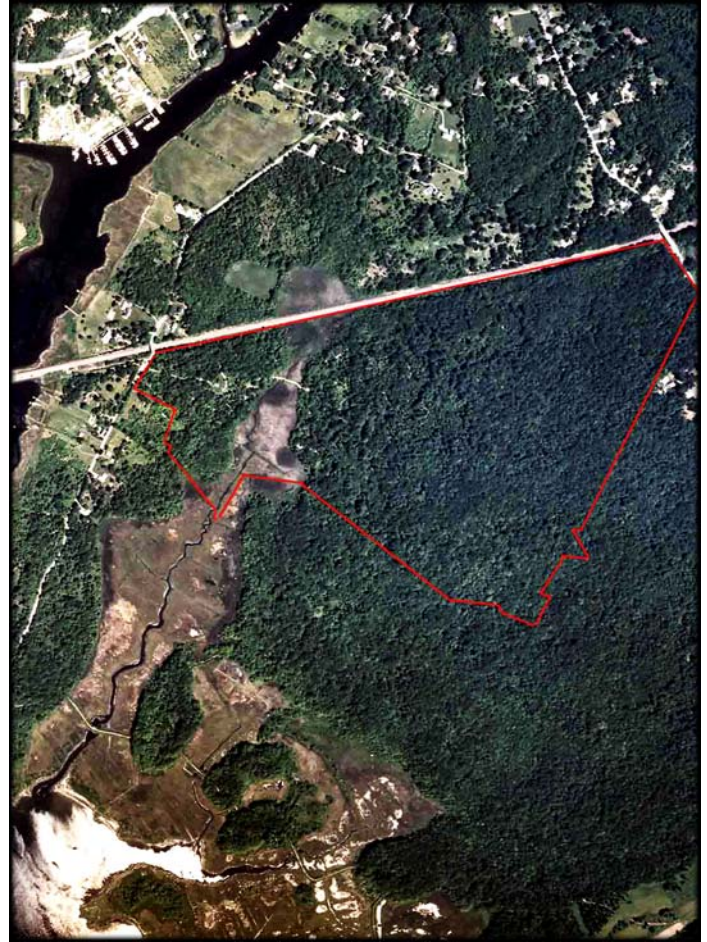
Another award-winning project in Massachusetts was the restoration work on the *Damde Meadows Salt Marsh Project*, which restored a natural salt marsh that had been converted into a freshwater hayfield during colonial times. The project involved installing two concrete box culverts to allow water to flood the approximately 18-acre site and restore the salt marsh. Ecologists predict that most of the area will be recolonized by salt marsh vegetation, ridding the area of the invasive *Phragmites* reed.

A diverse array of local, state, federal, and private partners carried the project through the various stages of site evaluation, project design, permitting, and construction. The total project cost for restoring the Damde Meadows Salt Marsh was \$185,500 of which 23 percent came from corporate donations, 28 percent from non-profit organizations, 43 percent from federal grants, and 6 percent from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

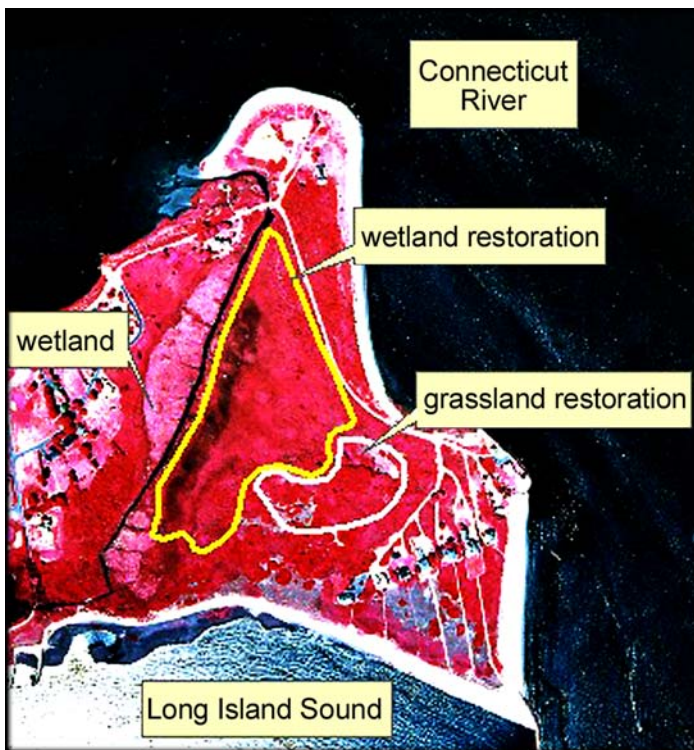
BARN ISLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

An environmental victory was achieved with the addition of 144 acres of private property to Connecticut's 869-acre *Barn Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA)*. The new property had been permitted for a golf course development that could have caused irreparable harm to this extraordinary ecosystem. Instead, this acquisition has secured the last link in the protection of the marsh complex and adjoining coastal forest.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program worked with Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and The Nature Conservancy to fund this project, which included a \$1 million Coastal Wetland Conservation grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Connecticut CWRP contributed to educational signage at the WMA, helping to boost the strength of the grant application and enabling an important public education component to be completed at this spectacular wetlands site.



The Barn Island Acquisition (highlighted in red).



The Lynde Point Restoration Project.

CONNECTICUT CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The Connecticut CWRP Chapter supported several projects during 2003. The *Lynde Point* project returned 10 acres of brushy land to tidal marsh, providing a vital habitat and feeding ground for migratory birds, local species of threatened birds, small fish, and the native grasses and other plants. Connecticut CWRP also provided support for the *Barn Island Acquisition* (described above), as well as the *Jordan Brook* project, which is restoring river herring fish runs to the upper reaches of the Jordan Brook.

MAINE CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The Maine Chapter of CWRP focuses on projects in several areas, including education and outreach, river restoration, and salt marsh restoration. Maine CWRP supported the *Dingley Island Tidal Flow Restoration Project* which reestablished the natural tidal flow between the clam-flats on the north and south sides of the Dingley Island causeway barrier (see page 11).

II. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MASSACHUSETTS CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

Massachusetts CWRP had another strong year, sponsoring several restoration projects in salt marshes such as *Bridge Creek*, *Damde Meadows*, and *Eastern Point*. Massachusetts CWRP was also on-hand during the presentation of a Coastal America Partnership Award to the *OSV Anderson* Partnership, which the Massachusetts and Maine Chapters have actively supported. To date, the Massachusetts CWRP Chapter has supported 31 projects, of which 11 have been completed.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

Members of the New Hampshire Chapter of CWRP worked to formalize the partnership through the drafting of by-laws, which are expected to be finalized in early 2004. The New Hampshire CWRP has also produced a newsletter that is being distributed to its members and to prospective corporations. Several projects are being pursued, including the *Bellemey River Dam* removal in Dover.

RHODE ISLAND CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The Rhode Island CWRP Chapter actively sponsored several projects in 2003, including the *Lonsdale Freshwater Marsh Restoration*, the *Walker Farm Salt Marsh Restoration*, and the *Pawtuxet River Fish Run Restoration*. To date, the Rhode Island Chapter has raised over \$130,000 in corporate support, generating a total of over \$2.5 million in leveraged funds for restoration projects. These projects are restoring 37 wetland acres and 7 river miles, displaying the tangible value that corporate support can provide to on-the-ground restoration projects.



Walkers Farm Salt Marsh Restoration, Rhode Island.

THE NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

When the EPA *OSV Anderson* was unexpectedly sent to Florida for a research priority in 2003, an innovative Partnership team quickly charted a lively curriculum for local students. The New England Aquarium graciously provided space, interns, and behind-the-scene tours for the day. EPA ran a living-lab session off the dock at the Aquarium, with Federal partners teaching about coastal ecology and management. Students got a hands-on view of Boston Harbor, ranging from issues facing the Harbor to actions underway to nurse it back to health. Coastal America partners on-hand included the New England Aquarium, Mystic Aquarium, the Massachusetts and Maine Chapters of CWRP, EPA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and NOAA.

“A functioning wetland is a critical requirement for fish and wildlife, an aesthetic pleasure for our citizens, and an all-natural water purifier for our communities. It’s great to see citizens and corporate partners play such a big role in these projects.”

Richard O. Bennett,
Deputy Regional
Director, Northeast
Region, U.S. Fish &
Wildlife Service

**Lynde Point Marsh
Restoration Project,
Old Saybrook,
Connecticut,
July 31, 2003**

THE MYSTIC AQUARIUM & INSTITUTE FOR EXPLORATION



Children listen to marine stories as part of the National Estuaries Day at the Mystic Aquarium.

Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration once again celebrated *National Estuaries Day*. The Aquarium teamed up with Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to host an on-site event for some 2,300 family visitors. The successful day featured Long Island Sound and Narragansett Bay habitat and water chemistry activities and displays, crafts and marine-related stories for kids, brief estuary talks at outdoor exhibits, and special live bird programs by Rhode Island Audubon.

The Mystic Aquarium also received funding from NOAA for the design and implementation of a Teacher Summer Institute to be held in the summer of 2004. This will be a joint effort with Connecticut Sea Grant, involving staff and resources from both organizations. A four-day experience will be conducted for urban teachers of 4th & 5th graders. The workshop focuses on coastal field studies, a ship-board experience focusing on water chemistry and biology, and a variety of marine-related information and activities for the classroom.

PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

In the Northeast Region, the *Smelt Hill Dam Removal Project* and the *OSV Anderson Partnership* received Partnership Awards. In conjunction with the *Damde Meadows/World's End Salt Marsh Restoration Project*, the Damde Meadows Salt Marsh Team received a Spirit Award while the Trustees of the Reservations received a Special Recognition Award.

COASTAL AMERICA 2003 PARTNERSHIP AWARD WINNER: SMELT HILL

The *Smelt Hill Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project*, completed in 2002, removed the Smelt Hill hydroelectric dam, earning the project a Coastal America 2003 Partnership Award. The Smelt Hill project opened up seven miles of the lower Presumpscot River watershed for passage of numerous species of migratory fish, including shad, blueback herring, alewife, smelt, and Atlantic Salmon.

The project was implemented through a collaborative approach between the New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the State of Maine Department of Marine Resources, the Coastal Conservation Association of Maine, the Maine Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, and other partners.

Presumpscot: "River of Many Falls"
 The Presumpscot River flows a distance of 23 miles from Sebago Lake to Casco Bay. Historically, the river provided critical habitat for diadromous (sea-run) fish such as shad, salmon, and alewife that utilized the river system for spawning purposes. The removal of the Smelt Hill Dam has allowed free-flowing water and access to riverine habitat for a distance of 7 miles upstream of the head of tide.

Smelt Hill Dam Site Then and Now...
 The Smelt Hill Dam was located one half mile upstream of where you are standing until it was removed in 2002. The dam that was removed was 151 ft. long, 31 ft. wide and 15 ft. high. The original dam was constructed in 1734 to harness hydroelectric power from the Presumpscot River, being modified several times over the decades. However, the dam had been non-functioning since floods in 1996 damaged the structure beyond repair. The removal of the dam has once again allowed water to flow freely and revealed Presumpscot Falls, a natural ledge falls immediately upstream of the old dam.

Why dam removal?
 Known Native American settlements in the vicinity of the dam site confirm that prior to the placement of the dam, this stretch of the Presumpscot River was productive fish habitat supplying a variety of fish species for local consumption. Removal of the dam, helps restore free-flowing conditions and the associated environmental benefits. Dams present obstacles to fish that nose up and down the river either as residents or seasonally for spawning purposes. Additionally, unimpeded rivers allow sediment flow to occur at a natural rate based upon the constraints of the riverine system, which in turn can improve water quality and creates habitat for fish and other wildlife.

Species: Presumpscot River - Maine Corporate Wetlands Partnership - Maine Coastal Program - Maine Audubon - Maine Fisheries Heritage Fund - Fish America Foundation
 Sebago Lake - Sebago Lake Association - Sebago Lake and Wildlife Foundation - National Marine Fisheries Service - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Coastal Conservation Association of Maine
 State of Maine Department of Marine Resources - State of Maine - State of New Hampshire - State of Vermont - Coastal Conservation Association - Maine Audubon - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Coastal Conservation Association
Individuals: Bob Patten, Paul Miller, and David and Susan Peltola

Educational signage posted at the site of the Smelt Hill Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project.

“By opening up seven miles of the lower Presumpscot watershed, conditions will be greatly improved for aquatic habitat — not to mention the new recreational opportunities that will be afforded the public. This project can be held up as a model for others to follow in protecting and preserving our coastal resources.”

Olympia J. Snowe,
U.S. Senator

Letter on
Smelt Hill Aquatic
Restoration Project,
Falmouth, Maine,
November 14, 2003

Mid-Atlantic

The Mid-Atlantic Region

- New York
- New Jersey
- Delaware
- Maryland
- Virginia
- Pennsylvania



the *Embry Dam* on the Rappahannock River, began initial preparation for construction starts in late 2003 and early 2004. Other projects of note include efforts for marsh restoration and removal of derelict vessels in *Jamaica Bay* by the National Park Service.

BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: THIN LAYERING PROJECT

Established in 1933, *Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)* is a 26,000-acre waterfowl sanctuary located along the Atlantic Flyway. Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is rapidly losing marsh habitat, with an estimated 8,000 acres out of 17,000 being severely impacted. The Blackwater marsh system would not benefit from traditional dredged material projects. As a result, a demonstration project is being utilized by the Army Corps of Engineers to help answer important questions about the feasibility of large-scale marsh restoration projects in the Blackwater Area.



Volunteers plant marsh grass at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

During May 13–18, 2003, the National Aquarium in Baltimore partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Friends of Blackwater to help plant 60,000 units of several species of marsh grass over nearly 15 acres. Over 100 volunteers participated in the event.

SWAN CREEK

The Port of Baltimore, in conjunction with the National Aquarium in Baltimore, is leading a large scale marsh creation project at the *Swan Creek Tidal Wetland*. On June 19–21, 2003, the National Aquarium in Baltimore partnered with the Port and North County Land Trust to help restore portions of the Swan Creek Tidal Wetland. With the help of 110 volunteers, 14,000 units of various species of marsh plants were carefully planted, including salt grass, coastal panic grass, switch grass, smooth and saltmeadow cordgrass, and other species.



Large scale marsh creation at the Swan Creek Tidal Wetland.

2003 COASTAL AMERICA PROGRESS REPORT

BIG EGG MARSH

The *Big Egg Marsh Experimental Restoration Project* in Jamaica Bay, New York, is an ongoing effort within the geographic purview of the Mid-Atlantic RIT. The National Park Service is the lead federal agency that is addressing the alarming loss of wetland islands within Jamaica Bay. Some predictions are that at the current rate, all of the wetlands will be lost by 2024.

In 2001, a Blue Ribbon panel of national wetland experts identified possible causes and recommended options for recovery, including an experimental technique involving both sediment management and planting of marsh grasses. Many other federal, state, and local agencies were involved, along with scores of volunteers and nonprofit groups. The site will be monitored and maintained for at least five years and lessons learned from this project will be applied to other restoration sites around Jamaica Bay and the mid-Atlantic region.



Marsh grass planting at the Big Egg Marsh Experimental Restoration Project.

NEW JERSEY CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP



A fish ladder installed as part of the Batsto River Fishway Restoration Project in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Chapter of CWRP is an active contributor to MARIT efforts to effect ecosystem restoration actions in the Mid-Atlantic Region. New Jersey CWRP pledged funding support to two projects during 2003 — the *Batsto River Fishway Restoration Project* and the *Nantuxent Cove Boom Anchor Program*.

The *Batsto River Fishway Restoration Project* is intended to restore access to eight miles of spawning and rearing habitat for migratory fish. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection agreed to provide funding and in-kind support, along with a contribution from the New Jersey CWRP. The Project is scheduled for construction in 2004.

NEW YORK CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The New York Chapter of CWRP initiated its first organizational meeting in New York on September 23, 2003. The Chapter is commencing a search for a co-chair to strengthen itself and to begin crafting a local strategy.

DELAWARE CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The Delaware Chapter of CWRP is expected to formally be launched in early 2004. Preliminary discussion occurred during much of 2003 with representatives from the State of Delaware, Connecticut, and the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. PSEG, the Mid-Atlantic CWRP Chair, is supporting the development of the Delaware Chapter.

NEW YORK AQUARIUM

In early Fall, New York City students and educators sailed from South Street Seaport to Brooklyn's Gravesend Bay aboard EPA's research vessel, *OSV Anderson*. The students learned how over-the-side sampling equipment is used for monitoring ocean dumping sites and coastal environments. Students experienced first-hand how federal, state and local entities conduct research and protect the marine environment. EPA support of marine science education and the New York Aquarium's sponsorship aboard the *OSV Anderson* made this day of water research possible.

II. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The New York Aquarium also partnered with John Dewey High School in Brooklyn, New York on *Project Creek*. This project introduced students to the marine sciences, habitat restoration, and environmental career awareness. Students attend New York Aquarium workshops on wetland ecology, followed by supervised fieldwork. Coney Island Creek and adjacent waterways have been identified as priority water bodies for remedial action. The project has been sponsored by a \$10,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE

Through its role as a federally designated CELC, the National Aquarium in Baltimore has developed community-based programs to engage volunteers in the technical process of restoring and monitoring tidal wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation at project sites throughout the Chesapeake Bay.

The National Aquarium in Baltimore is leading efforts to restore seagrass beds in the lower Chesapeake Bay. As part of a commitment by the Department of Defense, Langley Air Force Base in Virginia strengthened its pollution prevention programs and resulting water quality improvements allowed the National Aquarium to begin planting eelgrass there in 1998. Each subsequent year, the National Aquarium has returned to plant more grass and extend the beds. During October 6–10, 2003, Aquarium volunteers planted 10,000 units of eelgrass.



The National Aquarium in Baltimore is leading efforts to restore seagrass beds in the lower Chesapeake Bay.

PARTNERSHIP AWARDS



The esplanade in Glen Cove, New York.

Two projects from the mid-Atlantic region, the *Poplar Island Environmental Restoration* and the *Partners to Revitalize Glen Cove's Waterfront*, received 2003 Coastal America Partnership Awards. The *Poplar Island Environmental Restoration* involved the reconstruction of Poplar Island to its size in the year 1847.

By using clean dredged material from an approach channel of Chesapeake Bay Harbor, 1,140 acres of wildlife habitat were created. The *Partners to Revitalize Glen Cove's Waterfront* leveraged \$40 million to transform 213-acres of Glen Cove, a Long Island community. Brownfield sites and two miles of waterfront property are now being used productively through environmental, economic, infrastructure, and recreational improvements.

“Through the Innovative Readiness Training Program, the military is able to accomplish important training exercises while working cooperatively with Coastal America partners to improve the environment.”

Major Scott Shrader,
IRT Program Manager,
U.S. Army Reserve

**Coastal America
Annual Retreat,
San Diego, California,
June 16–19, 2004**

Southeast

The Southeast Region

- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Georgia
- Florida
- Puerto Rico

THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The Southeast Regional Implementation Team (SERIT) team worked during early 2003 to refine and clarify the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of its members. The internal assessment that the team conducted is benefiting both existing and new team members, as well as their respective agency leaders in the region.

The SERIT refreshed its working list of projects in 2003 to depict a more current, accurate, and realistic picture of Coastal America project activities in the region. One of the most noteworthy project discussions that began during 2003 was the proposed restoration of the Ocklawaha River (Florida) ecosystem by removal or breaching of *Rodman Dam*. This dam, located 60 miles south of Jacksonville, blocks the passage of several

species of migratory fish and led to the creation of Rodman Reservoir which filled with aquatic weeds. The team has decided to seek ways to support the efforts of the State of Florida to restore the river. Federal agencies with a primary interest in this restoration project include the U.S. Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

SERIT has also worked to expand the efforts of the *Watershed Signage Program*, which received a 2002 Coastal America Award for its efforts in Georgia, to include additional watersheds throughout the South.

FESTIVAL PARK



Festival Park in 2001, before restoration activities.



Festival Park after restoration in July 2003, with a stable shoreline and low marsh fringe.

As a direct result of relationships formed through the Coastal America Partnership beginning several years ago, an outstanding restoration partnership project was completed in summer 2003 at *Festival Park* (Roanoke Island), North Carolina. Three Federal partners (ACOE — Wilmington, USFWS and NRCS) worked closely with state and local government interests, NGOs, and citizen volunteers to address a severe erosion problem with a habitat restoration project that included several acres of salt marsh, inter-tidal flats, oyster habitat, and adjacent upland areas.

II. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GEORGIA CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The Georgia Chapter of the CWRP was established thanks to the leadership of Oldcastle, Inc. and CH2M Hill. Other partners include ENSR International and Colonial Pipeline. The Chapter drafted bylaws and is supporting a project at the *Johnson Ferry Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area*. The Chapter hopes that the project's success will encourage other companies to join the partnership.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM

During 2003, the South Carolina Aquarium engaged in a successful working partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on *International Bird Day*. The Aquarium also received grants from NOAA for distance learning equipment and for updating the lab exhibit with a new theme of protecting reef habitat.

A major focus of the Aquarium involved a partnership with a culinary school and over twenty restaurants to promote the *Sustainable Seafood* program. The goals of the program are to “promote wise seafood choices and promote consumption of environmentally-friendly, locally captured seafood.” Restaurant partners agreed to remove Chilean sea bass, orange roughy and shark from their menus.

INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION FISHING HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

On November 20–21, the International Game Fish Association Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum (IGFA) hosted a Student Ocean Conference entitled *Here Today, Here Tomorrow: Keeping Our Fisheries Healthy*. The conference raised awareness of the challenges of maintaining sustainable fisheries. Students interacted with experts in various fields relating to fisheries management and conservation. A panel of students from twelve schools in Southeast Florida were asked to identify the challenges facing our marine environment, discuss them, and propose solutions.



Students learn about coastal fisheries during a Student Ocean Conference at the International Game Fish Association.

Many experts attended the conference, including keynote speakers Dr. Sylvia Earle, ocean explorer, and Dr. Mike Heithaus, National Geographic Society Research Fellow. The experts on the field trips gave the students first-hand knowledge of what they practice daily in an effort to conserve, protect and sustain healthy fisheries.

PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

During 2003, the *U.S. Virgin Islands Marine Park Advisory Committee* was recognized with a Coastal America Partnership Award. This team orchestrated a collaborative process resulting in legislation that established the St. Croix East End Marine Park in the U.S. Virgin Islands. This dynamic process is designed to respect multiple uses while protecting magnificent reefs and marine resources. Additionally, an IGFA/AmeriCorps team was awarded a 2003 Coastal America Spirit Award for the *Birch State Park Restoration Project* in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The project eliminated invasive exotic plants in the only remaining coastal hammock in Broward County, Florida, by renewing the native flora and fauna with the planting of 400 native trees, understory plants, and grasses.

“The oceans are the heart of the environment. They are the cornerstone of what makes life on Earth possible. Protecting them starts with ourselves.”

**Dr. Sylvia Earle,
Ocean Explorer**

**IGFA Student Ocean
Conference, Fort
Lauderdale, Florida,
November 20–21, 2003**

Gulf of Mexico

The Gulf of Mexico Region

- Florida
- Alabama
- Mississippi
- Louisiana
- Texas

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team (GMRIT) is uniquely administered through collaboration with the broad Federal, state, local and private partnership of the Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP). The GMRIT had another productive year in 2003. The Program Offices in all five Gulf States held project call meetings for fiscal year 2005. The Team is also examining new ways to provide meaningful support for the CELCs while furthering the goals of the regional team.

SEAGRASS STATUS AND TRENDS REPORT

The GMP/GMRIT has long recognized seagrasses, estuaries, and coastal wetlands as vital in providing food and shelter for certain plants and animals, improving water quality, sediment filtration and flood and erosion control. In 1999, the partnership's *Habitat Focus Team* set a goal to restore, enhance, or protect 20,000 acres of important coastal and marine habitats in U.S. areas of the Gulf by 2009.

The Habitat Focus Team, recognizing that seagrasses are some of the most productive habitats in near shore waters of the Gulf Coast, also set an objective to produce a *Gulf-wide Seagrass Status and Trends Report*. The report, produced by seagrass scientists and experts along the Gulf Coast and completed in May 2003, provides current baseline data for the status of seagrasses in the Gulf. This information is particularly critical to scientists, state and local environmental managers and decision-makers.

2003 NOAA COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROGRAM — HABITAT RESTORATION IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program and the Gulf of Mexico Foundation now have 11 projects underway in the five Gulf states. These projects benefit ecologically sensitive marine, estuarine, and riparian habitats. The Gulf of Mexico Foundation works with the state managers of the GMRIT's Gulf Ecological Management Sites (GEMS), GMP/GMRIT staff, and NOAA Fisheries staff to identify and implement habitat restoration projects within the partnership.

This partnership has been extremely successful in rehabilitating degraded and lost habitats critical to the living resources of the Gulf of Mexico. These projects bring together federal agencies, multiple state agencies, private citizens and private conservation organizations to leverage resources. Eight project partnerships with the GMP/GMRIT were awarded during this second year of the grant program, for a total of over \$450,000.



Students bring plants they raised in their classroom to the new Bahia Grande mangrove nursery funded by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation.

THE FIRST BINATIONAL COLLABORATION WORKSHOP OF RED TIDE PROGRAMS



Technical and managerial experts from the United States and Mexico meet in New Orleans to discuss Red Tides.

The Gulf of Mexico Program and Regional Implementation Team Office, in cooperation with the Co-Chairs of the Gulf of Mexico States Accord's Health, Ecology and the Environment Subcommittee, hosted the first *Binational Collaboration Workshop of Red Tide Programs* in New Orleans on June 10–11, 2003. A total of 65 technical and managerial experts from the United States and Mexico attended the workshop.

The workshop outputs included a basis for a *Binational Plan for the Attention of Harmful Algal Blooms in the Gulf of Mexico*. Additionally, the participants made a commitment to unify and enhance the red tide technical program management capacity of the 11 Binational states bordering the Gulf of Mexico.

II. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TEXAS CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP



Marsh restoration at the San Jacinto National Monument, Texas.

Deputy Secretary of the Interior Steven Griles keynoted the Texas CWRP kick-off on February 18, 2003. The celebration included a field trip to the Partnership's second project, *San Jacinto National Monument*. Duke Energy and ENSR International are leading the corporate efforts to establish the Texas CWRP. A key purpose of the Texas CWRP is to identify and remove unnecessary policy or regulatory barriers to wetlands and aquatic habitat restoration and protection.

The *San Jacinto National Monument* project aims to restore the San Jacinto battleground/marshland to its original 1836 appearance. CWRP activities conducted in coordination with the San Jacinto marsh restoration included the construction of a 500-foot boardwalk to allow visitors to gain access to the San Jacinto Interpretive Trail without damaging the newly created marshland and tidal flats. Volunteers also planted 2500 marsh grass plugs in two locations in the Park.

DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB

After featuring the invasive Australian spotted jellyfish in an exhibit last year, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab followed up in 2003 with an exhibit on plants and animals that have invaded local areas. These invasive species are contributing to habitat loss and species displacement. Featured species include the Mozambique tilapia and grass carp, which are a result of intentional introductions for aquatic vegetation control. Alligator weed and the Mediterranean gecko, which were unintentionally introduced to the region as a result of international shipping, are also highlighted in the exhibit.

THE FLORIDA AQUARIUM

The Florida Aquarium hosted its fifth *Regional Oceans Conference for Students* (ROCS), on November 21, 2003. ROCS is in its fifth year at The Florida Aquarium through generous funding from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. The ROCS is similar to the Regional Student Ocean Conferences conducted by the CELCs. ROCS brings together students, teachers, agency representatives, and science experts. This year's conference focused on invasive species, and students presented their ideas for better management of this issue after roundtable discussions with scientists.



A student models an invasive species awareness t-shirt during the Florida Aquarium's Regional Oceans Conference for Students.

On March 17, 2003, The Florida Aquarium and NOAA worked together to launch a celebration of ESTME week (Excellence in Science, Technology, and Mathematics Education). NOAA representatives spent the week at the Aquarium interacting with Aquarium visitors, school groups, homeschool families, and Tampa Bay eco-tour participants.

"I have every expectation that this innovative public-private partnership will make a difference for Texas. . . . It provides an excellent opportunity for public and private leaders to collaborate on emerging issues, as well as develop and share strategies for the future."

**Rick Perry,
Governor of Texas**

**Letter read at the
Texas CWRP Launch,
Houston, Texas,
February 18, 2003**

TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM

The Texas State Aquarium continued *Sea Turtles in the New Century*, a project funded by the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The Texas State Aquarium is working with teachers from Texas and Mexico to raise awareness of sea turtles and encourage community involvement in turtle conservation. Teachers and students continue to teach and learn about sea turtles in the classroom, and are taking steps to educate other classes in their communities. In Mexico, teachers traveled to Oaxaca to educate small villages on the importance of sea turtles and alternative resources to turtle products. Other partners in the project include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Gladys Porter Zoo, and Sea Turtle, Inc.



Elementary students in Tamaulipas, Mexico, learn about sea turtles through the binational Sea Turtles in the New Century Project, led by the Texas State Aquarium.



Project GreenShores — Volunteers plant saltmarsh grass behind the newly created oyster reef/breakwater.

COASTAL AMERICA AWARDS

In the Gulf of Mexico region, *Project GreenShores* and the *Cameron Creole Watershed — Brackish Marsh Creation Project* received Coastal America Partnership Awards, while the Baytown Nature Center (Texas) and *Alabama Coastal Foundation Cypress Tree Planting Project* received Coastal America Spirit Awards.

Project GreenShores is a multi-phase restoration plan designed to address water quality issues and lack of critical habitat while promoting education and outreach. The project is being conducted in a shallow degraded area of the northern Pensacola Bay. Restoration efforts include the creation of near-shore oyster reefs, sea grass beds, and saltmarsh habitat, as well as the planting of 12 acres of native sea grass and saltmarsh vegetation on the shoreline.

Southwest

The Southwest Region

- California



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

During 2003, the Southwest Regional Implementation Team (SWRIT) decided to endorse the work of the *Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP)*. The SCWRP master plan includes over 60 projects from Santa Barbara to the Mexican border involving acquisitions, restoration, and planning. Many projects were approved during 2003 to receive grant funding, and SWRIT looks forward to collaborating with the SCWRP in the future.

“We believe that an investment in the management and protection of our ocean ecosystem is an investment in both our environment and economy.”

Brian Baird,
Ocean Program
Manager, California
Resources Agency

Coastal America
Annual Meeting,
San Diego, California,
June 16, 2003

CALIFORNIA CWRP

The California Chapter of CWRP welcomed corporate members Oldcastle Glass and Callaway Golf to the state Chapter. The California CWRP Chapter also hosted a reception during the 2003 Coastal America Annual Retreat at Sea World.

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

The Monterey Bay Aquarium released its popular *Seafood Watch National Seafood Guide*. The *Seafood Watch Guide* provides consumers with information on fisheries that are healthy for both ocean wildlife and the environment. The Guide lists best choices, such as Pacific halibut, as well as fisheries where sustainability is questionable (e.g., pollock) and fish to avoid completely (e.g., swordfish).

AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

In January, the Aquarium of the Pacific hosted *Can We Have Our Fish and Eat Them Too?*, a panel discussion that focused on the important, complex, and often contradictory issues surrounding seafood consumption. Panelists included a local restaurateur, medical doctor, environmental scientist, conservationist, recreational fisherman and NOAA Fisheries experts. Marine education continued at the Aquarium throughout the spring as guests volunteered at community events such as Divers Day and Earth Day. Coastal America partners set up booths at these events that provided information on a variety of environmental topics.



Participants learn about marine protected areas at a NOAA-sponsored workshop at the Aquarium of the Pacific.

The Aquarium of the Pacific also hosted a workshop on *Understanding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)* in September 2003. The workshop, offered by the NOAA National MPA Center’s Training and Technical Assistance Institute, provided 30 participants the opportunity to learn more about marine protected areas, including what they are, why they are established, the science behind MPAs, and how to get more involved. The day was a success, and other CELCs are exploring the possibilities of hosting other workshops in 2004.

Northwest

The Northwest Region

- Idaho
- Oregon
- Washington



NORTHWEST REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

During 2003, the Northwest RIT conducted several meetings focusing on potential project work. The Team specifically focused on areas of potential coordination with the American Heritage Rivers Initiative. Initial activities relating to the development of state CWRP chapters also have commenced in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

THE HATFIELD MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

In June, the Hatfield Marine Science Center hosted the second annual *H.M.S. SeaFest*, a one-day open house featuring tours of the Center, scientific lectures, exhibits, family activities, and a variety of displays and exhibits. Over 4,000 people attended the event this year. The *H.M.S. SeaFest* provides an important opportunity for the public to learn about the research conducted at the Hatfield Center, as well as the importance of the marine and coastal environment.

The Hatfield Marine Science Center, in partnership with NOAA Sea Grant, also began plans in 2003 for an exhibit on invasive species. The exhibit design can be easily duplicated and adapted for regional issues and content by other interested CELCs.



The Hatfield Marine Science Center hosted the second annual HMS SeaFest in June.

II. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE SEATTLE AQUARIUM

The Seattle Aquarium continued work on its *Beach Naturalist Program*, which trains volunteer beach naturalists to provide learning experiences for students and the public at local area beaches. In 2003, 110 trained volunteers reached 22,000 members of the general public on 7 local saltwater beaches with formal and informal beach walks, programs and conversations. Beach Naturalist volunteers also played an important role in supporting and securing the designation of Seattle city beaches as marine reserves.

PARTNERSHIP AWARDS



The Northwest Straits Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project.

The *Northwest Straits Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Team* received a Coastal America Partnership Award for their comprehensive derelict fishing net and crab trap removal project. In 2002, during the first-year pilot, derelict fishing gear was surveyed, located, photographed, mapped and removed from the marine environment of Northern Puget Sound. This organized, successful location and recovery project was the first comprehensive effort ever undertaken in the rich waters and marine habitats of Puget Sound, and the team plans to continue and enlarge its scope. The project is sponsored by the Northwest Straits Commission and includes a host of federal, state, and local partners.



The Karnowsky Creek Stream Restoration Program.

The *Karnowsky Creek Stream Restoration Program* in Oregon received a Spirit Award for their efforts to restore a 2-mile stream channel on Oregon's Siuslaw River tributary. The restoration was accomplished by reconstructing the Karnowsky Creek channel with pools and riffles, constructing off-channel fish rearing ponds, installing wood complexes in the new channel for fish habitat, and planting riparian vegetation. The Partnership was created under a student proposal and has worked so effectively that the U.S. Forest Service intends to employ the same concept on its next large-scale stream restoration.

“There are literally hundreds of tons of lost or abandoned commercial fishing nets and crab or shrimp pots in Puget Sound. It’s wonderful to finally begin a comprehensive project to remove this gear.”

**Tom Cowan,
Director, Northwest
Straits Commission**

**Estuarine Research
Federation
Conference,
Seattle, Washington,
September 15, 2003**

Alaska

The Alaska Region

- Alaska



ALASKA REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The Alaska Regional Implementation Team and its member agencies saw measurable progress in 2003 on a number of fish habitat restoration projects. Alaska's first CWRP project, the construction of a wildlife viewing platform on the Gulkana River, was also completed this year.

On Anchorage's *Ship Creek*, an agreement was reached with the private land owner of a major dam that blocks salmon passage to the 25-mile-long drainage. Design studies were then initiated to determine how to best restore the urban site. Additionally, relocation of a jet fuel line running under Ship Creek

was completed. This project has set the stage for replacement of another fish passage barrier on the system, a set of failing culverts in estuarine waters, that will be replaced with a bridge. Construction on the bridge will commence in 2005.

On *Willow Creek*, an extremely popular sport fishing stream north of Anchorage, a riparian restoration project was completed by a partnership of several Coastal America agencies and a landowner. The project turned a heavily-armored, sterile bank into a productive riparian zone with angler access.

ALASKA CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The *Gulkana River Habitat Restoration Project* was completed in October. The project, Alaska's first CWRP effort, involved the construction of a raised viewing platform along a major highway that gives visitors a view of spawning salmon while protecting the riparian zone from being trampled. A healthy and untrampled river bank is critical to salmon health, and the project will protect salmon eggs while providing a thriving insect population for the fish to feed upon.



Tourists climb down the Gulkana bank to view salmon.



The nearly-finished observation platform.

The Gulkana platform was funded through a Watchable Wildlife planning grant from the Alaska Conservation Foundation, construction funds from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, contributions from the Alaska Chapter of CWRP, and permitting support from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Division of Parks and Recreation.

II. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ALASKA SEALIFE CENTER

The Alaska SeaLife Center joined Sea Center Texas for a historic, distance-learning program that involved students throughout the United States. The webcast included live video, live question-and-answer sessions, games, and opinion polls along with biologists and researchers from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska and Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The curriculum included:

- Comparing the fascinating worlds of the Gulf Coast’s warm waters and Alaska’s frigid waters.
- Learning how researchers are seeking to understand the decline of the Steller sea lion and Kemp’s Ridley sea turtle.
- Witnessing fishery biologists balance the needs of people and sea populations.
- Interacting with students who monitor migrating coastal birds.

COASTAL AMERICA AWARDS

Alaska’s *Protecting Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat on the Last Frontier* project received a Coastal America Spirit Award for 2003. The project involves a partnership between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Alaska Coastal Program and Alaska’s four coastal land trusts in support of their efforts to collaborate with willing landowners to conserve important wildlife habitat in coastal Alaska. These land trusts work with public and private partners who wish to voluntarily conserve important natural ecosystems, open space near cities and towns, signature landscapes, and waters essential to a sustainable way of life and economic health.



The Herbert River Wetlands in Juneau, Alaska benefits from the Protecting Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat on the Last Frontier project.

This project is allowing landowners to achieve their goals of protecting more than 2,000 acres of land for their families and for a diversity of coastal-dependent wildlife species.

“The Gulkana observation platform provides an ideal vantage point from which to see the spawning salmon while saving our river banks from erosion. The corporate community is proud of our role in making this project happen.”

**Bill Streever,
BP Exploration, and
AK CWRP Chair**

Pacific Islands

The Pacific Islands Region

- Hawaii
- American Samoa
- Guam
- Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands
- Micronesia
- Palau
- Marshall Islands

PACIFIC ISLAND REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

For 2003, the Pacific Island Regional Implementation Team (PIRIT) has been involved with many restoration and preservation efforts. In the Pacific Islands, the loss of sandy beaches affects recreational activities vital to attracting tourism, the economic base of the region. Current coastal erosion and beach loss projects at *Bellows Beach* and *Waikiki Beach* examine coastlines with both stable and eroding portions. The team determines if there is any interrelationship, the factors that lead to stability versus erosion, and whether nourishment is an option.

The *Sustainable Management of American Samoa Mangroves* project is examining the five remaining mangrove stands in American Samoa. The majority of this once prominent system has been filled with sediment since the 1900's. The project involves two phases over the next three years starting with the creation of a taskforce to oversee the planning and



PIRIT is examining coastal erosion and beach loss at Waikiki Beach, Hawaii.

implementation of the project. The second phase involves the continuation of the establishment and implementation of locally managed sites, the management program, project evaluation and adaptive management of the mangroves.

WAIKIKI AQUARIUM

The Waikiki Aquarium hosted a spring lecture series on science and culture. The Aquarium has also been involved in a series of ongoing community events to remove invasive alien algae from Hawaii Island reefs. Several events involving community volunteers were conducted in 2003, increasing the total of alien algae removed from the Waikiki Marine Life Conservation District to 35 tons. The cleanup partners hope to develop a mechanized pump system to use at the reef and other trouble spots around the state. The Alien Limu Group of the *Alien Algae Research and Removal Project* received a 2003 Partnership Award for their ongoing cleanups at the Waikiki Marine Life Conservation District reef fronting the Aquarium.



Volunteers have removed over 35 tons of alien algae from Hawaii Island reefs.

“I wish to express my mahalo to our federal and state agencies, private organizations and the hundreds of volunteers who worked together to remove over 30 tons of alien algae from the Waikiki Marine Life Conservation District. ... Indeed, the Alien Algae Research and Removal Project is a bright example of the collaborative efforts of various groups driven by a shared and common cause to protect our ocean resource and to benefit our community.”

**Daniel K. Akaka,
U.S. Senator**

Alien Algae Research and Removal Project Partnership Ceremony, Waikiki, Hawaii, October 11, 2003

Upper Mississippi/ Great Lakes

The Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Region

- Pennsylvania
- Ohio
- Indiana
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Missouri
- Wisconsin
- Minnesota
- Michigan
- New York

UPPER MISSISSIPPI/ GREAT LAKES REGION

The Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Region prepared this year to nominate the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium (NMRMA) as the region’s first Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. This designation will mark the first time that an inland facility has earned the CELC title. Through exhibits and public outreach efforts, the NMRMA highlights both cultural and scientific resources of the Mississippi River.

In its role as a CELC, the NMRMA will serve to educate the public about coastal ecosystems and the important relationship between inland activities and coastal conditions. A clear example of the interconnectedness of freshwater and marine systems already exists in the Gulf of Mexico, where an area of water as large as 7,000 square miles undergoes a seasonal state of hypoxia, or oxygen depletion. While in this condition,

the waters cannot sustain most marine life, and the hypoxic “Dead Zone” has become a serious threat to commercial fishing, shrimping, and recreational industries. The hypoxia is caused by excessive amounts of nitrogen pollution delivered to the Gulf by the Mississippi River. The NMRMA serves as a key source of information for inland residents about how their local activities can have an impact far from the heartland.



The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa.



Contamination in watersheds that feed into the Gulf of Mexico cause a seasonal state of hypoxia.

III. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Coastal America Partners are committed to protecting, conserving, and restoring coastal and aquatic habitats through the Coastal America process. The Partnership's success is clearly demonstrated on a daily basis through increased governmental collaboration; the creation of new partnerships among industry, government and local communities; and education and outreach activities that extend from the local to national scale.



“In this century, the greatest environmental progress will come about not through endless lawsuits or command-and-control regulations, but through technology and innovation.”

**George W. Bush,
President of the
United States**

**State of the
Union Address,
U.S. Capitol,
January 28, 2003**



Coastal America Partners believe that the near future will be a pivotal period for our oceans and coastal areas. With the Pew Commission having released its report in 2003 and the U.S. Ocean Commission expected to release its report in Spring 2004, ocean and coastal issues in the United States are being addressed holistically for the first time in over thirty years.

The Coastal America process aligns closely with many of the expected recommendations of both Commissions. It is a collaborative approach that extends across agency jurisdictions, encourages communication and collaboration, and provides for tangible, on-the-ground results in coastal habitat protection and restoration. With the U.S. Commission expected to draw strong linkages between inland activities and coastal conditions, Coastal America also looks forward to expanding its Learning Center outreach from coasts to the nation’s heartland.

In addition to working in harmony with national policy directions, Coastal America is also looking internally for mechanisms to maximize the effectiveness of the partnership process. A sub-committee of Coastal America Principals, along with the National Implementation Team and Coastal America staff, are continuing a process begun in 2003 to determine a series of goals and measures for the partnership. These goals and measures, which are expected to be endorsed by the Principals in 2004, will provide the Partnership with clear, focused directions for action and measures to judge progress toward achieving the goals.

Coastal America’s primary purpose will continue to be the facilitation of on-the-ground, localized restoration and education projects that incorporate multiple agencies, people, and interests working toward a common environmental goal.

APPENDIX I:

**2003 REGIONAL
POINTS OF CONTACT**

NORTHEAST

Bill Hubbard
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District (Concord, MA)
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MID-ATLANTIC

Mario DelVicario
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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John S. Wright
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Atlantic Division (Brooklyn, NY)
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SOUTHEAST

Dennis Barnett
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
South Atlantic Division (Atlanta, GA)
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Wesley “Bo” Crum
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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GULF OF MEXICO

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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Email: *robert.h.bosenberg@usace.army.mil*

Bryon Griffith
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Gulf of Mexico Program
(Stennis Space Center, MS)
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**UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
FOCUS AREA**

William Franz
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Region 5 –Water Division (Chicago, IL)
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SOUTHWEST

Paul Michel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9 (San Francisco, CA)
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CDR Steve Thompson
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Region (Santa Rosa, CA)
Email: *steven.a.thompson@noaa.gov*

NORTHWEST

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Northwest Division (Portland, OR)
Email: *stephen.r.bredthauer@usace.army.mil*

Mark A. Brown
Bureau of Land Management (Oregon)
Email: *mark_brown@or.blm.gov*

ALASKA

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Alaska Regional Office (Anchorage, AK)
Email: *michael_roy@fws.gov*

Erika Phillips
NOAA Restoration Center (Juneau, AK)
Email: *erika.phillips@noaa.gov*

PACIFIC ISLANDS

John Naughton
National Marine Fisheries Service
Pacific Islands Region (Honolulu, HI)
Email: *john.naughton@noaa.gov*

Mark Chandler
U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development
Email: *mark_a._chandler@hud.gov*

APPENDIX II:

**COASTAL ECOSYSTEM
LEARNING CENTERS (CELCS)**

ALASKA SEALIFE CENTER

P.O. Box 1329
Seward, AK 99664
907-224-6300
www.alaskasealife.org

AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

320 Golden Shore Drive, Suite 150
Long Beach, CA 90802
562-590-3100
www.aquariumofpacific.org

DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB

101 Bienville Boulevard
Dauphin Island, AL 36528
334-861-2141
www.disl.org

THE FLORIDA AQUARIUM

701 Channelside Aquarium
Tampa, FL 33602
813-273-4000
www.flaquarium.org

**HATFIELD MARINE
SCIENCE CENTER**

2030 South Marine Science Drive
Newport, OR 97365-5296
541-867-0100
www.hmsc.orst.edu/education

**IGFA FISHING HALL OF
FAME AND MUSEUM**

300 Gulf Stream Way
Dania Beach, FL 33004
954-927-2628
www.igfa.org

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

886 Cannery Row
Monterey, CA 93940-1085
831-648-4800
www.mbayaq.org

MYSTIC AQUARIUM

55 Coogan Boulevard
Mystic, CT 06355-1997
860-572-5955
www.mysticaquarium.org

**NATIONAL AQUARIUM
IN BALTIMORE**

Pier 3
501 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-3194
410-576-3800
www.aqua.org

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Central Wharf
Boston, MA 02110-3399
617-973-5200
www.neaq.org

NEW YORK AQUARIUM

Boardwalk at West 8th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11224
718-265-3400
www.wcs.org

THE SEATTLE AQUARIUM

1483 Alaskan Way
Seattle, Washington 98101-2059
206-386-4300
www.seattleaquarium.org

SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM

100 Aquarium Wharf
Charleston, SC 29413-9001
843-720-1990
www.scaquarium.org

TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM

2710 North Shoreline
Corpus Christi, TX 78402
361-881-1200
www.texasstateaquarium.org

WAIKIKI AQUARIUM

University of Hawaii
2777 Kalakaua Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815
808-923-9741
www.waquarium.org

APPENDIX III:

**CORPORATE WETLANDS
RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP
LIST OF PARTICIPATING COMPANIES**

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Duke Energy – *National Corporate Chair*
The Gillette Company – *Vice-Chair & Secretary*
Battelle
ENSR International
FMC Corporation
Restore America’s Estuaries
National Association of Manufacturers – *National Sponsor*
JEM Environmental Management, LLC – *Founder*

STATE CORPORATE MEMBERS (*Listed Alphabetically*)

ABR, Inc. – AK	Cyn Environmental Services – MA
Alpha Analytical – MA	Daylor Consulting Group – MA
Alton Engineering – MA	Devine Tarbell & Associates – ME
Anheuser–Bush Co., Inc. – NJ	The DOW Chemical Company – CA
Apache Ecological Services – TX	Duke Energy – MA, NJ
Applied Science Associates – RI	Duke Energy–Gas Transmission – TX
Arch Chemical – RI	Duracell – CT
Association of Washington Businesses – WA	Earth Tech – MA
Bangor Hydro-Electric – ME	EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc. – RI, CT
Battelle – MA & RI	Eastern Topographies – MA
Bay Colony Railroad – MA	ECAP – MA
Beals & Thomas – MA	ENSR International – GA, MA, NJ, TX
Boehringer Ingelheim – CT	Epsilon Associates – MA
BP Exploration – AK	ERM New England – MA
BP – TX	ERM Group Foundation Inc. – MA
Bristol Myers Squibb Company – NJ	ESS Group, Inc. – RI & MA
Bronson Communications – ME	Exxon Mobil Corporation – NJ
BSC Group – MA	Foley Hoag LLP – MA
Callaway Golf – CA	FPL Energy Seabrook Station – NH
Capaccio Environmental Engineering – MA	General Electric Company – MA
Casco Bay Energy Company, LLC – ME	Genzyme Corporation – MA
CH2M Hill – GA	The Gillette Company – MA, ICWRP
Cianbro Corp. – ME	Goodwin Procter LLP – MA
Clean Harbors – MA	Great Meadow Farm – MA
Clipper City Survey – MA	H.A. Gray and Pape – TX
Col-East – MA	HDR Alaska – AK
Colonial Pipeline – GA	Hoffman LaRoche Inc – NJ
ConEd – NY	Horizon Environmental Services – TX
Conectiv – NJ	Horsley & Witten – MA
ConocoPhillips – TX	HRP – CT
Consumers Water Company – NJ	Hunton & Williams – NJ, VA
Curtis, Thaxter, Stevens, Broder & Microleau – ME	Hyperion Energy – TX

2002 COASTAL AMERICA PROGRESS REPORT

ICF Consulting – MA
Infineum USA L.P. – NJ
Invensys/The Foxboro Company – MA
J.F. Mitchell Company – ME
Jacques Whitford – MA, ME, NH
Judith Nitsch Engineering – MA
Keyspan Energy – NH
KeySpan Foundation – MA
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP – GA
Kleinschmidt Associates – ME
LandAir – GA
Lawler, Matusky & Skelly Engineers, LLP
– NY & NJ
LGL – AK
Louis Berger Group – MA, NJ
Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc. – CT
Maine Yankee – ME
Marin Environmental – CT
Malone and McBroom – CT
Mannington Mills, Inc. – NJ
Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline – ME
Massachusetts Electric Company – MA
McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton – NH
Merck — Manufacturing Division – NJ
Metals Recycling – RI
Metcalf & Eddy – MA
Narragansett Electric Company – RI
NC Machinery – AK
New England Development – MA
New England Wetlands – MA
New Jersey Natural Gas – NJ
Normandeau Associates – MA, ME & NH
Northeast Utilities – CT & MA
Northwest Strategies – AK
NSTAR – MA
Oasis Environmental – AK
Oldcastle, Inc. – GA
Oldcastle Glass – CA
Panhandle Companies – TX
Perkins, Townsend & Shay – ME
PG&E National Energy Group – MA
Phillips 66 – AK
PNGTS Operating Co., LLC – ME
Polaroid Corporation – MA
Port Authority NY/NJ – NY & NJ
PPL Services Corporation, Maine, LLC – ME
Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG)
– NY, NJ, DE
Public Service New Hampshire – NH
Pulte Homes – NJ
Raytheon Corporation – MA
Reliant Energy – TX
Robinson & Cole – CT
S.A. Sudbay Company – ME
Schering-Plough Corp. – NJ
Sidley & Austin – NJ
Sikorsky – CT
Shiner Moseley & Associates – TX
Smithfield Foods – VA
S.W. Cole Engineering, Inc. – ME
Stanley Works – CT
Stephen J. Doyle & Associates – MA
Thales – AK
TRC Environmental Corporation – ME
Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc. – AK
URS Corporation – AK, TX
USGen New England – MA
Vanesse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. – MA & NH
Verizon – ME & NJ
Verrill & Dana – ME
Warwick & Associates – MA
Weston and Sampson Engineering – MA
Wheelabrator Saugus – MA

NON-PROFIT MEMBERS

Amigos de Sian Ka'an – ICWRP
Anchorage Waterways Council – AK
Associated Industries of Massachusetts – MA
Association of Massachusetts Wetlands
Scientists – MA
Boston Natural Areas Fund – MA
Brown University – RI
CACIWC – CT
Charles River Watershed Association – MA
Connecticut College – CT
Connecticut Fund for the Environment – CT
Connecticut River Watershed Council
– MA & CT
The Conservation Foundation – NJ
Conservation Law Foundation – MA
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
– DE
Ducks Unlimited – CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, TX
Environmental Business Council of
New England – MA
Environmental League of Massachusetts – MA
Friends of Hall's Pond – MA
Galveston Bay Estuaries Program – TX
Galveston Bay Foundation – TX
Greater Boston Real Estate Board – MA
Institute for Marine & Coastal Studies – NJ
Ipswich River Watershed Association – MA
Little Boar's Head Village District – NH
Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission – ME
Massachusetts Association of
Conservation Commissions – MA
Massachusetts Audubon Society – MA
Merrimack River Watershed Council – MA
Municipalities of: Barrington, Providence,
East Providence, North Kingstown,
Warwick and Cranston – RI

APPENDIX III: CWRP LIST OF PARTICIPATING COMPANIES

Nashua River Watershed Association – MA	Second Nature – MA
Natural Resources Council of Maine – ME	SuAsCo Watershed Coalition – MA
Neponset River Watershed Association – MA	SuAsCo Watershed Community Council – MA
New England Aquarium – MA	Sudbury Valley Trustees – MA
New Jersey Audubon Society – NJ	Taunton River Watershed Alliance – MA
New Jersey Marine Consortium – NJ	The Nature Conservancy – MA, NH, NJ, TX, ICWRP
Parker River Clean Water Association – MA	The Trustees of Reservations – MA
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary – NJ, DE	Woonasquattucket River Watershed Council – RI
Pawtuxet River Authority – RI	United Nations Foundation – ICWRP
Rhode Island Sea Grant – RI	University of Connecticut – Marine Sciences Dept. – CT
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut – CT	University of Massachusetts — Urban Harbors Institute – MA
Roger Williams University – RI	University of Rhode Island – RI
Rutgers State University – NJ	
Saugus River Watershed Council – MA	
Save the Harbor/Save the Bay – MA	
Save the Bay – RI	
Save the Sound – CT	

RESTORE AMERICA’S ESTUARIES MEMBERS

American Littoral Society (NJ) – RAE	People for Puget Sound (WA) – RAE
Chesapeake Bay Foundation (MD & VA) – RAE	Save the Bay (CA) – RAE
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (LA) – RAE	Save the Bay (RI) – RAE
Conservation Law Fund (ME) – RAE	Save the Sound (NY, CT) – RAE
Galveston Bay Foundation (TX) – RAE	Tampa BayWatch (FL) – RAE
North Carolina Coastal Federation (NC) – RAE	Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (Great Lakes) – RAE Affiliate

FACILITATING FOUNDATIONS

Coastal America Foundation
United Nations Foundation

APPENDIX IV:

**CORPORATE WETLANDS
RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP
MASTER PROJECT LIST**

NATIONAL

Inaugural National Conference on Coastal
& Estuarine Habitat Restoration 2003*
Second National Conference on Coastal
& Estuarine Habitat Restoration 2004
Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2003* 2004
National Student Ocean Conference —
January 2004*

ALASKA

Alaska Wetland Restoration Atlas
Gulkana River Fish Viewing Platform
(on the Richardson Highway)*

CONNECTICUT

Barn Island Wildlife Management Area
(Stonington)
Ed Bills Pond Fish Ladder (Lyme)*
Jordan Millpond Dam Fish Ladder
(Waterford)
Lynde Point Tidal Wetlands Restoration
Project (Old Saybrook)*
Pond Lily Dam Fish Ladder (New Haven)*
Survey of Restoration Sites in
Connecticut*

GEORGIA

Johnson Ferry Component of
Chattahoochee River NRA — Volunteer
Project*

MASSACHUSETTS

Assabet National Wildlife Refuge
Assabet River Wetlands Restoration Plan,
Maynard*
Ballard Street (Rumney Marsh) (Saugus)
Bass Creek (Yarmouth)
Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary (Saugus)
Boston Harbor Atlas of Restricted
Wetlands
Bridge Creek (Barnstable–Cape Cod Bay)
— Phase 1*
Bridge Creek (Barnstable–Cape Cod Bay)
— Phase 2

Broad Meadows (Quincy)
Boat Meadow Creek Salt Marsh
Restoration (Cape Cod)*
Central St. Fishway Repair on Parker
River (Byfield)*
Charles River Watershed Wetlands
Restoration Plan
Cow Yard (Dartmouth)
Eastern Point (Gloucester)
Education Project Aboard the OSV
Anderson 2002*
Education Project with New England
Aquarium 2003*
Feasibility Studies of Priority Wetlands
Restoration Sites Within the Shawsheen
River Watershed
Forest River Study (Salem)
Gulliver's Creek/Neponset River Tidal
Restriction Study (Milton)
Island Road Saltmarsh (Essex)
Lincoln Park (Lexington)
Mary Chase Marsh (Eastham)
Mattapoisset Neck, Mattapoisset
(Buzzards Bay)
Mill Creek, (Chelsea–Boston Harbor)
Mollie Drive (Tewksbury)
Namskaket Marsh (Brewster and Orleans
— Cape Cod Bay)
Narragansett Bay/Mt. Hope Bay Shores
Watershed Wetlands Restoration Plan
Neponset Salt Marsh Restoration Project
— Phases I and 1-A (Boston)
Newman Road/Old Town Hill (Newbury)
North Pool Salt Marsh Restoration at the
Parker Refuge (Newburyport)
Oak Island Marsh (Revere)
Park Street Extension (Saugus)
Parker River Refuge — North Pool
Restoration (Newbury)
Plum Bush Creek (Newbury–Merrimack
Watershed)
Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Project and
Monitoring* (ongoing)
Purple Loosestrife Survey and Mapping*

* Denotes completed

APPENDIX IV: CWRP MASTER PROJECT LIST

Quivett Creek, Dennis and Brewster
(Cape Cod)
Sagamore Marsh Restoration Project
(Cape Cod)*
Salt Marsh Restoration Research
Symposium*
Shawsheen Feasibility Studies (Watershed)
Smelt Monitoring (Salem)*
Soil Sulfide Research at Sagamore Marsh
(ongoing)
State Game Farm (Sandwich)
SuAsCo Watershed Wetlands Restoration
Plan
Town Brook/Pilgrim Trail River
Restoration/Dam Removal (Plymouth)*
Water Street, Newburyport (Merrimack
Watershed)
Willow Brook (Devens)
Wings Neck Road, Bourne (Bourne–Cape
Cod)*
World’s End (Damde Meddowes)
(Hingham–Boston Harbor)*
Yokum Creek Dam Removal (Beckett)

MAINE

Cascade Brook
Cundy’s Harbor Tidal Flow Restoration
Project (Harpwell)
Dingley Island Tidal Flow Restoration
Project Feasibility Study*
Dingley Island Causeway*
Drakes Island Restoration (Wells)
East Machias Dam Removal and Shoreline
Stabilization Project (East Machias)*
Education Project Aboard the OSV
Anderson 2002*
Guilford Dam Removal on Sebasticook
River (Newport)
Habitat Restoration Workshop
Scarborough Marsh Wildlife Management
Area — Seavey Landing Phase
(Scarborough)

Scarborough Marsh Invasive Species Plan
Sebasticook Lake Fishway
Sennebac Dam Removal, Union (St. George
River at outlet of Sennebec Pond)
Smelt Hill Dam Removal (Falmouth)*
Weskeag Saltmarsh Restoration (South
Thomaston)
Wheeler Refuge Tidal Flow Restoration
(York)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bellamy River Restoration — Dam #5
Removal (Dover)

NEW JERSEY

Batsto River Fish Ladder (Burlington County)
Nantuxent Cove Boom Anchor Program
(Miscellaneous sites)
Horseshoe Crab Program Support

RHODE ISLAND

Lonsdale Marsh/Drive-In Aquatic Habitat
Restoration Project (Lincoln)*
Pawtuxet River Fish Run Restoration
(Cranston and Warwick)
Walker’s Farm Salt Marsh Restoration
Project (Barrington)
Gooseneck Cove (Newport)
Fields Point (Providence)
Town Pond Salt Marsh Restoration Project
(Portsmouth)

TEXAS

Oyster Gardening and Reef Construction
Project, Galveston Bay*
San Jacinto Monument — Interpretive
Trail, Houston*
San Jacinto Monument — Volunteer Day,
Houston*

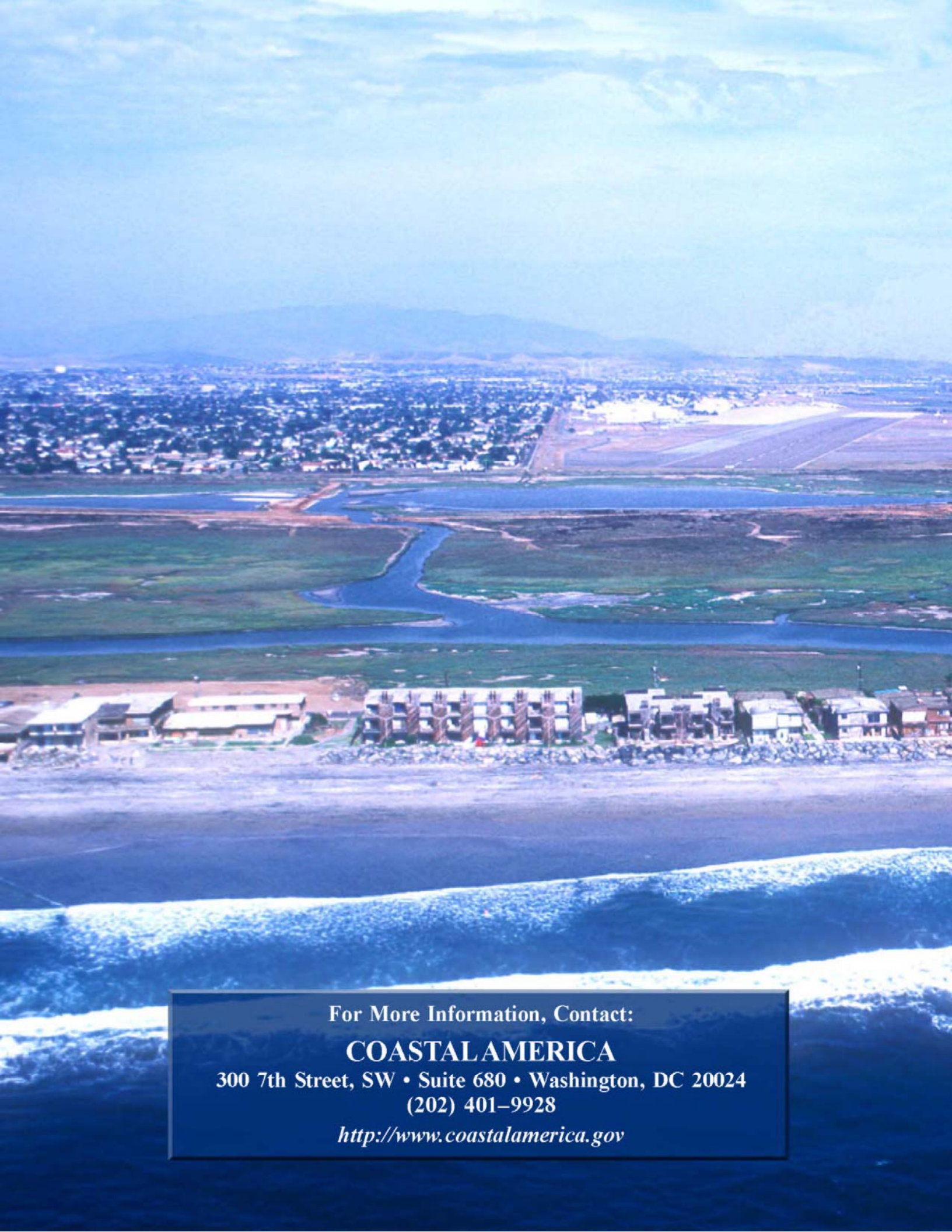




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Further information is also available on the Coastal America Foundation website:
<http://www.coastalamericafoundation.org>.



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