

Protecting and Restoring Our Coasts: The Success of Partnerships

2000 COASTAL AMERICA
PROGRESS REPORT





COASTAL AMERICA

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR A COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION TO PROTECT, RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE NATION'S COASTAL LIVING RESOURCES

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. This partnership for action is comprised of those Federal agencies with statutory responsibilities for coastal resources or whose operational activities affect the coastal environment. The partners are committed to a national effort which is guided by the concepts of ecosystem management and sustainable development in addressing primary coastal concerns, including habitat loss and degradation, nonpoint source pollution, and contaminated sediments. The Partnership focuses on regional activities that provide direct local and watershed action.

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 living resources including but not limited to: Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, Water Resources Development Acts, 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 Implementation Teams (RITs), and a Coastal America office. 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.

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 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. 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. Projects meeting Coastal America criteria are afforded priority within each partner's program, as appropriate.

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.

coastal
america ...

A
Partnership
for
Action



Protecting and Restoring
Our Coasts:
The Success
of Partnerships

2000

COASTAL AMERICA
PROGRESS REPORT

2000 Coastal America Progress Report

COVER PHOTO: WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS

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“As we begin the 21st Century, it is becoming increasingly clear that the best way to reach our environmental goals is by working together in cooperation, partnership, and bipartisanship.

The efforts of Coastal America epitomize this approach...and I am proud to recognize their efforts and work with them to ensure that the message of environmental stewardship is heard and embraced.”

Bob Smith
U.S. Senator (NH)
Chairman of the
Senate Committee on
Environment and
Public Works

Note to
Coastal America,
December 2000



Waikiki Beach, Hawaii

April 2001

Coastal America 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 Transportation

Environmental Protection Agency

Executive Office of the President

I. The Coastal America Process

How It Works

Coastal America is an action-oriented, results-driven process aimed at restoring and preserving our vital coastal ecosystems and addressing our most critical coastal environmental issues. The Coastal America partnership was established in 1992 by a Memorandum of Understanding and today the federal partner agencies include the Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, and Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Executive Office of the President. This partnership brings the resources, expertise and authorities of the federal resource, military and infrastructure agencies together with state, local, tribal and non-governmental organizations to form a resourceful, action-based enterprise. Coastal America is not just another program, it's a true partnership initiative.

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

At the National Level

The Principals Group consists of the senior policy officials, including Under or Assistant Secretaries, from the federal partner agencies. This group establishes overall policy for the Coastal America partnership and meets semiannually at a minimum. Senior level representatives from the headquarters of the federal partner agencies comprise the National Implementation Team, which meets monthly to implement the policy directives of the Principals Group and promote collaboration among the participating agencies. This multi-agency problem-solving approach enables issues to be quickly identified and fosters an effective means by which senior level policymakers and program managers can address issues as they arise.

At the Regional Level

Regional Implementation Teams, composed of senior regional managers of the federal partner agencies, develop the regional strategies. These strategies serve as the basis for program initiatives and the selection of site-specific coastal projects. This joint regional planning process is influenced by the need for sustainable development and, as a result, incorporates both environmental and economic objectives into regional development plans.

At the Local Level

Local projects are implemented by partnership teams representing a range of stakeholders. These local teams combine the resources and skills of the federal, state, and local agencies with relevant non-governmental endeavors. This cooperative approach promotes cost-effective, creative solutions and results in achievements which no organization could accomplish alone. Infrastructure rehabilitation and improvements are often the starting point for these restoration and protection efforts. Working in partnerships, hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands have been restored or protected; thousands of miles of rivers and streams have been returned to use for spawning and rearing fish; pollution has been reduced; and numerous species of fish, shellfish, birds, and marine mammals have been protected. Additionally, the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers facilitate a more efficient and effective network to educate the public on the value of our coastal resources.

“Through Coastal America, the federal government is committed to working with state agencies, local agencies, tribal governments and local business groups to restore wetland and other aquatic habitats around the country.

Working together in partnership we can achieve our national goal of a net increase of 100,000 acres of wetlands each year.”

**Dr. Joseph Westphal
Chair, Coastal America,
and Assistant Secretary
of the Army for
Civil Works**

**Kickoff of the
National Corporate
Wetlands Restoration
Partnership,
May 2000**

A Closer Look

Partnerships are the essence of Coastal America. The partnership process allows more agencies' goals to be met, more projects to be completed, and fewer resources to be used. Strong relationships and extensive collaboration are pivotal in Coastal America's recipe for success. Agencies leverage their resources, with Coastal America serving as both catalyst and facilitator for the process. To date, there are more than 500 restoration and protection projects underway or completed in 26 states, two territories and the District of Columbia.

In 2000, the Principals Group, National Implementation Team, Regional Implementation Teams, and various working groups met regularly to further the partnership process. The groups continued to expand corporate involvement through the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, enhance public education through the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, and promote technology transfer through workshops and meetings.

The Coastal America **Principals Group** met on May 9, 2000 and November 7, 2000. The nomination of the Seattle Aquarium and seven Partnership Awards were approved at the Spring meeting. In addition, a subgroup was formed to develop criteria for the prestigious Chafee Award.



The Spring meeting of the Principals Group.

At the Fall meeting, the criteria for the Chafee Award was approved and nominations were discussed. The Fall meeting also resulted in the endorsement of the 13th and 14th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and the South Carolina Aquarium. In addition, the group recommended an expanded distribution of the newsletter and other Coastal America materials, in order to share the goals and achievements of the partnership with a wider audience. The Principals strongly supported efforts to increase awareness of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership throughout the business and environmental communities. The final issue addressed by the Principals was the need to institutionalize Coastal America. A subgroup led by Dr. Joseph Westphal, Chair of Coastal America, agreed to further investigate the issue.

The **National Implementation Team** took on a number of challenging issues during the year. They reviewed and endorsed a variety of Coastal America outreach material, and recommended three Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers designations and seven Partnership Award recipients. They reviewed the regional strategies developed by the RITs. They oversaw the national kickoff for the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, an initiative that has gained increasing support and membership. Members of the National Implementation Team also participated in the annual planning retreat and assisted with two Principals meetings. In addition, they helped develop criteria for the new Chafee Award and made recommendations of candidates to receive the award. The team is currently working with the Principals to ensure a more permanent future for the Coastal America Partnership.

Three specialized working groups assist the NIT at the national level:

- The **Policy Workgroup**, a subgroup of the NIT, is responsible for evaluating policy issues and developing options for the NIT and Principals Groups. In 2000, this group addressed such topics as institutionalization, implementation of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, the Coastal America Partnership Awards and the Chafee Award.
- The **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee** is composed of experts from the federal partner agencies, and is responsible for providing technical expertise to the Coastal America partnership. A key topic in 2000 included how to improve communication between the committee and both the Regional Teams and the Learning Centers, in order to better share their scientific expertise and resources. The group also began investigating a way to develop success measures for coastal restoration projects.

“Preserving the environment is a responsibility we all share, and partnerships such as this one help to ensure that every sector of American life works in concert to fulfill that responsibility.”

Nancy L. Johnson
U.S. Congresswoman
(CT)

**Connecticut Corporate
Wetlands Restoration
Partnership Kickoff,
October 2000**

- The **Education and Outreach Workgroup** works to increase awareness of Coastal America, its projects, and the benefits of the partnership. The group is comprised of individuals from the areas of education, outreach, and public affairs from the federal partner agencies. The group reviews outreach materials and strategies, and provides ongoing support to the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers. Key activities in 2000 included helping to develop an education page on the Web, an updated Coastal America video, and an outreach strategy for the partnership.

The nine **Regional Implementation Teams** were busy and productive in 2000. Each group continued to strengthen their teams and the collaborative process. Enthusiasm and involvement in the new Coastal America initiatives has increased throughout the country, thanks to the regional teams. These initiatives include the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Military Involvement, and Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers.

Each team worked to improve and expand the partnership effort in their region. Two new Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers were designated and two others were approved for designation in 2001. Most of the teams identified projects suitable for military involvement, and many are championing the initiative of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. The teams have recognized the tremendous potential of this initiative, and are working diligently with The Gillette Company and the National Association of Manufacturers to identify other businesses that are interested in becoming involved in environmental stewardship efforts within their communities. Through all of these efforts, the regional teams continued to strengthen both the support for, and the achievements of, the Coastal America partnership.



Annual Retreat field trip to the Fort McHenry Wetland Restoration Site, Baltimore, MD.

II. Innovative Partnerships

Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership

Coastal America devoted considerable energy in 2000 to developing and expanding the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). A major goal of the CWRP is to bring together public and private funds and expertise through a streamlined implementation program, allowing the maximum possible environmental benefits per contributed dollar. The initiative has met with overwhelming success and is being expanded nation-wide.

Since the signing of a resolution between Coastal America and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1994, Coastal America and the Commonwealth have worked together to support wetlands restoration in Massachusetts. In 1999, the state worked with The Gillette Company and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-Region I to develop the CWRP in their state. In the Fall of 1999, the Coastal America Principals discussed the concept of expanding this effort to a national partnership and instructed the National Implementation Team to support the strategy. This is a unique, national public-private partnership devoted to wetland and aquatic habitat restoration.



National Kickoff of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Washington, DC.

The Gillette Company took the lead by establishing the CWRP in Massachusetts. Gillette then expanded its role to serve as the New England regional corporate lead, and co-sponsored an event to invite corporations throughout the region to join the partnership.

The formation of the Coastal America/New England CWRP was announced by Senator John Kerry at an event on January 21, 2000. Senator Kerry emphasized that “The CWRP is an innovative and new approach to environmental restoration.”

The formation of the National CWRP was announced at a press conference on May 25th in Washington, DC. Members of participating corporations and the Coastal America

Partnership were on hand to celebrate the new partnership. The National Association of Manufacturers formalized their commitment to the CWRP by becoming the national corporate sponsor.

Two states successfully moved forward with state kickoff events. The Connecticut CWRP, chaired by Duracell and Northeast Utilities, held a state partnership event in June and a subsequent kickoff in October. The state kickoff for the Maine CWRP, led by Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, was held in July. In addition, Rhode Island had several discussions about the CWRP, and Ecological Science Services has agreed to serve as a co-lead for that state.

By the end of 2000, 27 companies were members of the CWRP, contributing over \$2.5 million. In addition, over 25 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic members had joined the CWRP, contributing technical assistance, project identification services, and volunteer labor.

“The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership provides a terrific new initiative for companies to work cooperatively with governmental agencies to identify opportunities and pool resources. Together, we can make real improvements to our national wetlands heritage.”

**Jerry Jasinowski
President of the
National Association
of Manufacturers**

**National CWRP
Kickoff,
May 2000**

The CWRP National Advisory Council convened its first quarterly meeting on November 1, 2000, and approved its first bylaws and prospectus. Gillette is the national corporate chair and Duke Energy is the vice-chair. Other companies on the council include: Battelle, ENSR, and The Foxboro Company. The NGO members include Ducks Unlimited and Restore America's Estuaries. They have set the following series of goals:

- 1) to assist federal, state, and local agencies in meeting the national goal to restore 100,000 acres of wetlands annually by 2005,
- 2) to establish and support a network of aquatic habitat restoration education and research sites, and
- 3) to create a CWRP in each of the 50 United States.

Projects:

Groundbreaking for the restoration of the Sagamore Marsh, near the Cape Cod Canal in Bourne, Massachusetts, took place on April 10, 2000. The Army Corps of Engineers, with the collected expertise and resources of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the EPA, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), assisted the M a s s a c h u s e t t s



Celebrating the groundbreaking of the first CWRP project, at the Sagamore Marsh in Bourne, MA.

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs in restoring the wetland. The Sagamore Marsh, adjacent to the Scusset Beach State Park, is an area of about 300 acres of degraded salt marsh. It had succumbed to brush fire due to the succession of *Phragmites*, and had become a breeding ground for mosquitos. A build up of sand, resulting from the extension of the northern jetty of Cape Cod Canal, had restricted tidal flushing and led to degradation of the marsh. The Gillette Company provided funds through the CWRP to undertake an innovative post-construction monitoring and evaluation program to determine the effectiveness of the restoration project. In addition to this restoration project, the Massachusetts CWRP also worked on twelve other projects during the year.

The Connecticut CWRP undertook their first project in late 2000 at Ed Bills Pond in Lyme, CT. A small dam at this location prevents migratory fish from swimming upstream to spawn. In November, this multi-partner project constructed a fishway at the dam. The fishway will allow species such as Atlantic salmon, American shad and blueback herring to complete their migration from the Long Island Sound to freshwater streams where they complete their reproductive cycles. Coordinated by the Connecticut River Watershed Council, the partners included: the CT Department of Environmental Protection, Town of Lyme, Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Fish and Wildlife Service - Silvio O. Conte Fish & Wildlife Refuge, and the Southern New England-New York Bight Coastal Ecosystem Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, EPA, Fish America Foundation, and the Pfizer Corporation. Boehringer Ingelheim of the CT CWRP provided the necessary funds to commence this important project.

Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers

The Coastal America partnership continues to strengthen its national network of regional Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers. Through the Learning Centers, Coastal America partners support efforts to increase public awareness and involvement in protecting and restoring coastal resources.

In 2000, regional workshops between Learning Centers and federal agency partners were held at the New England Aquarium in Boston, MA for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, and at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, AK for the Northwest and Alaska regions. These workshops are designed to: (1) share success stories and lessons learned; (2) identify opportunities for collaboration; and (3) build on existing relationships between the Learning Centers and their federal agency partners. In the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, Learning Centers are particularly interested in finding ways that federal agencies can help enhance the marine mammal stranding networks, namely by providing transportation assistance and support for tagging and tracking released animals. In the Northwest and Alaska, Learning Centers are interested in collaborating on exhibits, specifically: a marine invasive species exhibit at the Hatfield Marine Science Center; a Bering Sea exhibit at the Alaska SeaLife Center; and enhancing the marine mammal exhibit at the Seattle Aquarium. In addition to these regional CELC workshops, the second national Learning Center meeting took place in conjunction with the National Marine Educators Association conference in Long Beach, California. This meeting provided an opportunity for the Learning CHawaii to discuss a number of cross-cutting activities such as the Student Ocean Conferences funded through a grant from the National Geographic Society's Geography Education Foundation. The Hatfield Marine Science Center, the National Aquarium in Baltimore, and the Coastal America Education/Outreach Coordinator also participated on an education and outreach panel during The Coastal Society's 17th Annual Conference in Portland, OR.

Two New Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers: Waikiki Aquarium and The Seattle Aquarium

In 2000, Coastal America designated two new Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, including the first Learning Center for the Pacific Islands region. The Waikiki Aquarium in Honolulu, Hawaii was designated as the 11th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center on March 17, 2000. The Waikiki Aquarium, founded in 1904, is the third oldest public aquarium in the United States. Part of the University of Hawaii since 1919, the Aquarium is located next to a living reef on the Waikiki shoreline. The Aquarium's exhibits, programs, and research focus on the aquatic life of Hawaii and the tropical Pacific. Over 2,500 organisms are used in their exhibits and represent more than 420 species of aquatic animals and plants. Every year, roughly 350,000 people visit the Waikiki Aquarium.

The Seattle Aquarium in Washington was designated as the 12th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center on June 26, 2000. It is the second learning center in the Northwest region, complementing the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon. The Seattle Aquarium seeks to reach the broadest possible audience through exhibits and programs that excite, involve, and inform the public. School groups ranging from preschool through high school participate in on-site classes and outreach programs. The Aquarium serves over 40,000 students annually, making it the largest provider of marine education in the region.



Signing of the MOU at the Waikiki Designation Ceremony.

“The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center will be a beacon of information...it will explain to the public the importance of healthy coral reefs, the importance of watershed planning, of restoring native vegetation in critical areas, and maintaining healthy wetlands where we have them.”

**Daniel K. Akaka
U.S. Senator (HI)**

**Designation of the
Waikiki Aquarium,
March 2000**

Student Ocean Conferences “Here Today, Here Tomorrow: A geographic focus on marine conservation”

A new and exciting initiative is taking place at the Learning Centers. Through a grant from National Geographic Society’s (NGS) Geographic Education Foundation, the Learning Centers are working with the Sustainable Seas Expedition and Coastal America federal agency partners to host an array of Student Ocean Conferences around the country. The Conferences aim to educate and empower students about protecting the marine environment, and to expose them to the variety of career opportunities available in these areas. Student Ocean Conferences will be hosted at the various Learning Centers during the next several years. When appropriate, the local National Marine Sanctuary will be used as the Conference’s focal point, to bring the issues of marine conservation into the students’ backyards.



The Army Corps of Engineers leading a field excursion at the Seattle Aquarium’s Student Ocean Conference.

While each conference will be unique, highlights will include such things as interaction with local federal agency professionals involved in marine management, conservation, and sanctuaries; discussion groups for students to relate their own experiences and insights; and a session with a leader in regional or national marine conservation.

On November 6- 7th, the Seattle Aquarium hosted the first pilot Student Ocean Conference for 55 students in the greater Seattle area. Coastal America partners from the Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary Program, EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Coast Guard led sessions involving boat trips, field excursions, use of a Remotely Operated Vehicle, and a discussion session about Marine Protected Areas. Other activities included a sleep-over with night education programs at the Aquarium, and an up-close Q&A session with NGS Explorer-in-Residence Dr. Sylvia Earle.

The second Student Ocean Conference was held on December 1st at the New England Aquarium. Fifty-two students attended the Conference to discuss the various human uses of the local Stellwagen Banks National Marine Sanctuary. In the morning, the group saw an interactive video on the Sanctuary and were engaged in a slide show and Q&A session with Dr. Earle. For the rest of the day students role-played in six stakeholder groups, where they determined their group’s needs and concerns for the Sanctuary. The stakeholder groups presented their recommendations, and challenged each other to consider the real-life implications of coastal and marine management. Experts were on hand to provide professional perspectives on the issues, including Coastal America partners from NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary Program, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Coast Guard.

Military Involvement

The Department of Defense has historically partnered with Coastal America in a number of areas. For example, around the country the military, including the Coast Guard, has continued to support Coastal America goals by transporting stranded marine mammals under the Economy Act and as a part of their military missions. Along the East Coast, the Navy continues to support the Northern Right Whale Early Warning System to prevent transiting ships from striking whales. In Washington state, the Army removed the obsolete LaGrande Construction Dam under the Army Corps of Engineers' Support for Others Program. Through such projects, the military has been active in providing benefits to local communities and the coastal environment while meeting war-time readiness needs and supporting mission requirements.

The most significant contribution made by the Department of Defense in 2000 was the assignment of a military liaison to the Coastal America staff. In April, an Air Force Colonel joined the staff to represent the Civil-Military Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program managed out of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. This assignment has greatly enhanced Coastal America's ability to support and encourage military involvement in a variety of projects. Throughout the year, the military liaison met with representatives from each of the Regional Implementation Teams. These meetings were used to detail the IRT process and discuss the opportunities that are available to the Teams when the IRT program is partnered with Coastal America projects.

In addition, the liaison worked with Regional Team Chairs to establish military subcommittees in each of the regions. The subcommittees are able to focus their energy on identifying military units that are interested in applying their training needs to Coastal America projects through the IRT Program. One successful example of this partnership was the removal of an unsafe, obsolete dam and power plant in East Machias, Maine. As a Coastal America partner, the Air Force Reserve used reservists during

the summer of 2000 to remove the dam and power plant under the IRT Program. The Town of East Machias, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other Coastal America partners were also key players in the project. In the end, the project provided valuable readiness training to the military, removed an unsafe dam for the town, and benefitted the state by restoring pathways for anadromous fish migration.



The East Machias dam was removed by a Coastal America team including Air Force Reserves working through the IRT Program.

Coastal America's Innovative Partnerships

“In the case of the old East Machias dam and power station, the Air Force Reserve is building the experience levels of our civil engineers while the city of East Machias is able to eliminate a safety hazard and restore the river as a path for migrating fish.

It’s important that our people have an opportunity to train in real-world, hands-on projects, such as the East Machias dam demolition, so they can continue to contribute to the national defense.”

**Air Force Maj. Gen. James E. Andrews
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Readiness, Training and Mobilization**

**News Release,
June 2000**



The Sagamore Marsh, MA, was the first Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership project in the country. Restoration was completed in the Fall of 2000.



The Gold Hill Dam, on the Rogue River, OR, is being considered as a potential project for a military training exercise.



Dr. Sylvia Earle, Ocean Explorer, discussed marine conservation with students at the Student Ocean Conference in Boston.

III. Outstanding Collaborations

Partnership Awards

Seven team projects were recognized with Coastal America Partnership Awards, reflecting the outstanding efforts put forth by the teams. The Partnership Award was established to recognize teams and processes that are exceptional models of multi-agency collaboration. Innovative and unique efforts are strongly encouraged through the Coastal America Partnership, and the Partnership Awards recognize those accomplishments that could only be achieved through collaboration. Participation at the federal, state, and local levels are required for nomination. Award plaques, certificates of appreciation, and letters of congratulations from Vice President Albert Gore were presented at award ceremonies around the country.

Breton Island Restoration Team

Breton Island, LA is part of the Breton National Wildlife Refuge System. Between 1996 and 1999, Breton Island lost 54 acres, mostly as a result of the 1998 Hurricane Georges. In 1999, using Army Corps of Engineers Section 204 authority, the restoration team placed 1,200,000 cubic yards of dredged material from the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet site on the gulf-side of Breton Island. This activity restored approximately 26 acres of the northern side of Breton Island. As a result of this project, 620 acres of shallow intertidal waters that provide essential fish habitat were protected.



The Breton Island Restoration Team.

Fort McHenry Wetland and Restoration Team

The Fort McHenry Restoration Team has been working to restore and maintain a 10-acre tidal wetland adjacent to the Fort McHenry National Monument in Baltimore, MD. This wetland was created in 1982 as part of a mitigation requirement and has been undergoing clean-up (removal of debris and invasive species). The team established the first real-time water quality monitoring station in Baltimore Harbor and a model of community-based tidal wetland restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. Restoration efforts included invasive species management, replanting of native vegetation, debris removal, oyster bar placement, and habitat enhancement. Environmental education and outreach are important components of the project, including a job-training program for Morgan State University students.



The Fort McHenry Wetland Restoration Team.

“The Conservation of the Los Osos Coastal Dunes is an important environmental initiative, both regionally and nationally.”

James Pipkin
Director of Policy,
Department of
the Interior

**Partnership for
Conservation of the Los
Osos Coastal Dunes
Partnership Award
Ceremony,
August 2000**

Partnership for Conservation of Los Osos Coastal Dunes



The Partnership for Conservation of Los Osos Coastal Dunes.

This broad-based stakeholder effort has successfully developed a habitat preservation and restoration strategy for an imperiled coastal dunes area along California’s Central Coast, and has successfully acquired several key parcels. The plan calls for the preservation of 1200 acres of endangered species habitat surrounding Los Osos near Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County. The acquisition of 35 acres, with negotiations underway for an additional 800 acres, is a testament to the partners’ ability to identify prime sites, facilitate funding strategies, and build coalitions.

The Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program and the Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership



Massachusetts EOEa and Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership Representatives.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Wetlands Restoration Program is the first state office in the country dedicated to wetlands restoration. This office teamed up with Coastal America’s Northeast Regional Implementation Team to develop the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. The Massachusetts EOEa, in cooperation with The Gillette Company, broke ground on April 10, 2000 with the first project to begin under this new program. The Sagamore Marsh project restored 50 acres of wetlands and over 50 acres of associated estuarine habitat.

2000 Coastal America Progress Report

Rains Mill Dam Removal Team

On the Neuse River, NC, the privately-owned Rains Mill Dam once blocked 49 miles of spawning habitat to anadromous fish species such as American shad, striped bass and Atlantic sturgeon. Utilizing a Marine Corps demolition unit, this dam was demolished with C-4 explosives in December 1999. The combination of Marine Corps demolition expertise, state and federal technical expertise, and support from non-profit groups enabled the dam to be removed in an efficient and cost effective manner. In addition to opening former anadromous fish habitat, the removal of the dam has resulted in improved water quality and enhanced recreational opportunities.



Rains Mill Dam Removal Team.

Maine Coastal Wetland Restoration Partnership

The Maine Coastal Wetland Restoration Partnership has developed a model restoration process that utilizes a voluntary accomplishment-driven, ecosystem-based approach to implementing coastal wetland restoration projects on public and private lands. This partnership provides funds and technical support through a broad array of sources and has catalyzed additional efforts to support restoration including the development of successful outreach strategies to increase partner awareness and enhance grassroots support. The partnership has successfully restored 150 acres on the Ralph Waldo Tyler State Wildlife Management Area (by re-establishing a natural interspersion of salt hay and permanent panne habitat), and an additional 100 acres of coastal wetlands managed by the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge.

Little Falls Fishway Task Group

The Little Falls Dam is located in Maryland just north of the District of Columbia. Because of its location, the dam effectively cuts off anadromous fish stocks from their spawning grounds. An existing fishway located at Snake Island was never successful in letting these fish pass upstream. The Little Falls Fishway construction process is a cooperative effort between Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers, who are responsible for fish passage and dam operation, respectively. Many other federal and non-federal partners, such as the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the District of Columbia, were also involved. It is anticipated that the fishway will restore American shad to the Potomac River watershed. An awards ceremony was held in early 2001.

“The removal of the Rains Mill Dam was an important milestone...It was one of the first dams to be voluntarily removed for ecological reasons alone, and it was one of the first dams to be removed by an active duty unit of the Defense Department.”

**Robert B. Pirie, Jr.
Under Secretary
of the Navy**

**Rains Mill Dam
Removal Team
Partnership Award
Ceremony,
October 2000**

Special Recognition Awards

The Special Recognition Award was established to recognize non-governmental organizations that have significantly contributed to the restoration and protection of the coastal environment.

The Gillette Company

The Gillette Company received a Coastal America Special Recognition Award for their leadership role in establishing the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. Through their vision and commitment, the Partnership is now expanding throughout the nation.



The Gillette Company's Special Recognition Award.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 271

This award was unique, as it was the first time the Special Recognition Award was given to a federal partner. However, due to their exceptional contribution to the Coastal America process, the Principals approved a military unit to receive the award. The Marine's involvement in the removal of the Rains Mill Dam Project represented a significant innovation in the partnership. Marine Corps combat engineers from Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North



The Marine Corps Special Recognition Award.

Carolina removed the dam as a community outreach project and a needed combat support training exercise. These active duty personnel planned the dam's demolition and orchestrated all aspects of the event - from ordnance storage, to demolition techniques, to personnel safety.

John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award

In 2000, Coastal America sought nominations for the Chafee Award and the recipient of the award will be announced in 2001. Coastal America established the John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award in 1999 to recognize the late Senator Chafee for his lifetime commitment to restore and protect the coastal environment. The award is given to an individual who displays outstanding initiative in restoring and protecting our nation's coastal resources.

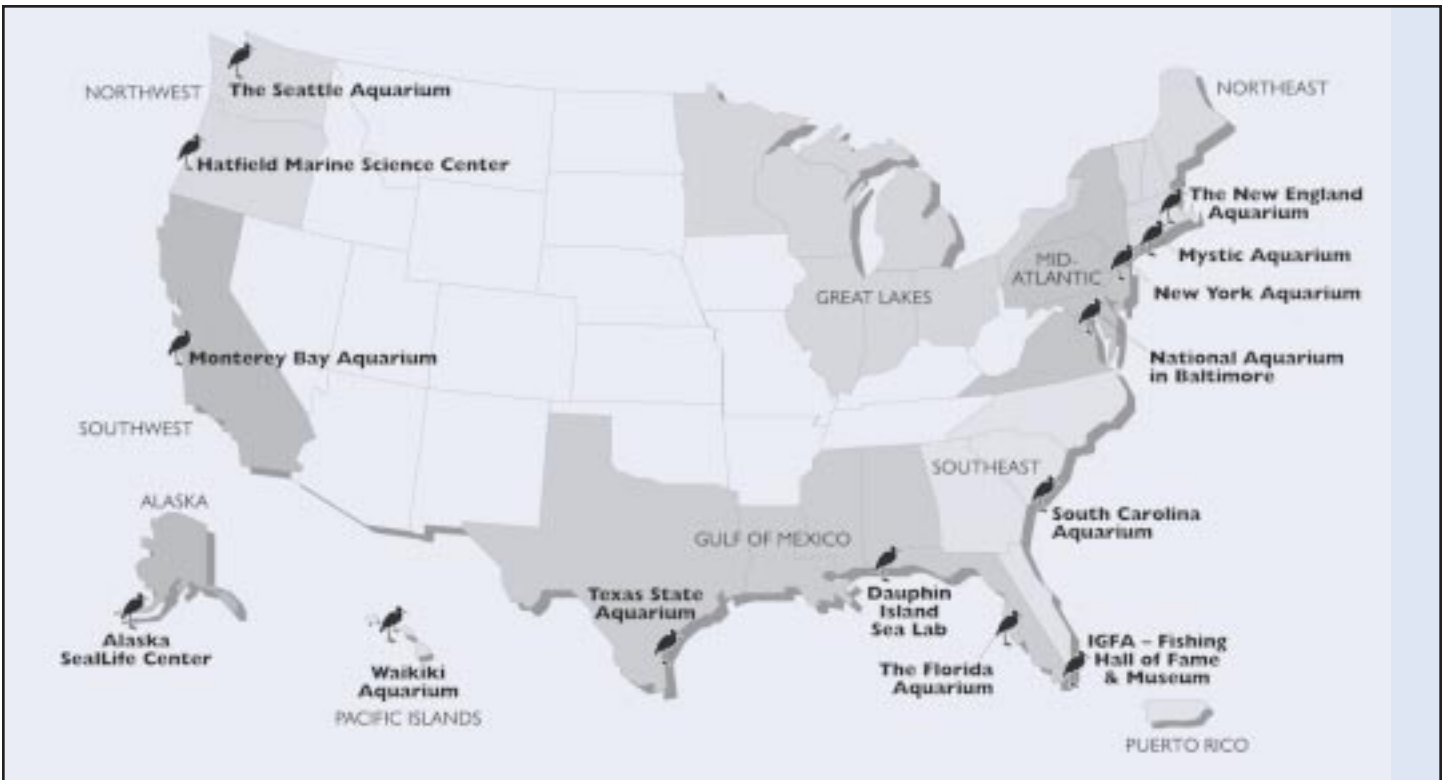
IV. A Year of Continuing Achievements

The Regional Implementation Teams are the building blocks of the Coastal America Partnership. The teams are comprised of regional representatives from each partner agency. Their goal is a collaborative one: to develop site-specific, watershed-centered projects that are strengthened by, or dependent upon, the partnership process. Coastal problems vary across the country, and each regional team sets their own agenda to address their most significant environmental concerns. Within the context of these regional agendas, they identify high priority projects. It is here that the partnership process begins to take form in the field. The Regional Implementation Teams identify the agencies best suited to complete a project, and the collaborative process is initiated.

Accomplishments in the year 2000 included the re-evaluation of regional strategies. There was a segment at Coastal America's 2000 Retreat devoted to reviewing the teams' strategies. Specifically, each team evaluated the effectiveness of their current strategy, and discussed whether their key issues and emphases have changed over time. In some instances, the teams determined that their key issues and strategies remain pertinent. In other cases, they discovered that their efforts would benefit from updated strategies. In every case, the review served as a source of motivation, reminding the teams of the successes they have achieved through their hard work and commitment.

In addition, the teams worked to incorporate Coastal America's new initiatives, the Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership and the military's Innovative Readiness Training program, into their regional strategies. They also continued to improve and expand their support for their Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers. Fostering these initiatives requires time and resources, but the teams who have incorporated them are learning that their benefits are far reaching.

Five major components of the Coastal America process provide a framework for the Regional Principals and the Regional Implementation Teams: *The Partnership Process*; *Public Involvement/Education*; *Technology Transfer*; *A Systems Approach*; and *Adaptive Management and Monitoring*.



Coastal America Regions and Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers.

“Restoring wetlands and other aquatic habitats is important to the commerce of this country. Coastal wetlands and other aquatic habitats support fisheries, tourism and recreation, which contribute nearly \$100 billion annually to our nation’s economy.”

I urge you to continue this critical work that is so valuable to our nation.”

**Sally Yozell
Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Oceans
and Atmosphere,
Department of
Commerce**

**Groundbreaking
of the first
Corporate Wetlands
Restoration
Partnership project
April 2000**



Alaska Regional Team Meeting.

- **The Partnership Process:** By combining resources and authorities, Coastal America’s partners accomplish what no organization can achieve alone. The East Machias dam was removed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Air Force, the State of Maine, and other partners. This unique and cost-effective solution served as a training exercise for the military, and greatly benefitted the community, downstream fisheries, and the local ecosystem.
- **Public Involvement/Education:** To increase the role of the federal partners in public education about the value of coastal ecosystems, Coastal America designated its 11th and 12th coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers: the Waikiki Aquarium and the Seattle Aquarium.
- **Technology Transfer:** Coastal America continues to utilize proven technologies in their projects. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee keeps the teams up to date on new technologies and methodologies. Successes and ideas are exchanged through workshops, publications, and other outreach materials.
- **A Systems Approach:** Through the success of its organizational structure, the Coastal America partnership demonstrates how broad regional issues can be dealt with at the local level. The new Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership exemplifies this systematic approach, with its national strategy for wetlands restoration, regional implementation structure, and local action-oriented projects.
- **Adaptive Management and Monitoring:** To ensure successful and efficient efforts, partners are encouraged to monitor and evaluate their projects. The National Aquarium in Baltimore has set an example with their Fort McHenry community wetland restoration project. This project includes the first real-time water quality monitoring station in Baltimore Harbor.

The following pages highlight the Teams’ year 2000 regional strategies, projects, and lessons learned.

Northeast

One of the Northeast Implementation Team's greatest contributions to the Coastal America partnership this year is their leadership in establishing the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). The Massachusetts CWRP was formed in 1999, and by January 2000 the group had invited corporations around New England to join. This public-private partnership met with great success, and a ground-breaking event at the Sagamore Marsh in April, 2000 marked the first CWRP project in the nation. The Northeast Team is taking an active role in transferring the concept of the CWRP to other regions across the country.

Massachusetts has a goal of restoring over 3,000 acres of wetlands by 2010, an endeavor that is actively supported through the Coastal America Partnership. The Northeast Team is on the steering committee of the Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program, and has committed to support all of the efforts of this first-in-the-nation state restoration program. In turn, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program serves as the state representative to Coastal America's Northeast Team. This alliance has proven highly successful and will continue to be a focus for project implementation over the next decade. An example of this collaboration is the restoration of Broad Meadows Marsh in Quincy, MA, a cooperative effort with the City of Quincy, MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), and the Army Corps of Engineers. This former dredged material disposal site will be excavated and regraded to return tidal flows across the marsh. For its efforts in restoring wetlands and establishing the CWRP, the EOEA was recognized at a 2000 Partnership Award ceremony.

Preliminary planning and design investigations have been initiated on Rhode Island's next large salt marsh restoration project, Town Pond (Boyd's) Salt Marsh in Portsmouth, RI. The removal of dredged material from this marsh is being investigated under the leadership of the Army Corps of Engineers, RI Department of Environmental Management, and RI Coastal Resources Management Council.



Faulkner Island, CT.

The Faulkner Island project was initiated in 2000 off the coast of Madison, CT. An historic lighthouse, located on a Fish and Wildlife Refuge on the island, is in danger of collapse from erosion in the surrounding area. Congress directed the Army Corps of Engineers to protect the structure. The Northeast Team helped design the project to enhance and protect nesting habitat for the endangered Roseate Tern.

In New Hampshire, numerous coastal salt marsh restoration projects have been completed through the expertise of the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Fish and Wildlife Service. A joint venture

between the NRCS, the NH Office of State Planning, the Corps, and the town of North Hampton, restored tidal exchange in the Little River Salt Marsh by replacing a small pipe with a large culvert. In addition, state fisheries scientists have identified a series of obsolete dams whose removal would improve regional fisheries. In the future, the Northeast Team plans to conduct an examination of opportunities for restoration of wetlands and riverine corridors around the state.

In Maine, the NRCS and Fish and Wildlife Service are creating a list of priority projects for restoring anadromous fisheries corridors, salt marshes, and other wetlands. Additionally, the Northeast Team is supporting a tribal-led conservation effort in the Penobscot River watershed. The Corps and the Maine Department of Transportation are also examining potential tidal restrictions in all of coastal Maine. The effort will look at tidal restrictions in marshes over the next three years.

IV. A Year of Continuing Achievements

“The Student Ocean Conferences inspire today’s youth to value, protect, and continue learning about our nation’s tremendous marine resources.”

The Conferences bring students together with marine scientists and managers, encouraging them to consider the day-to-day challenges of protecting the marine environment.”

**Dr. Sylvia Earle
Ocean Explorer and
National Geographic
Society Explorer-in-
Residence**

**New England Aquarium
Student Ocean
Conference,
December 2000**

The New England Aquarium

The New England Aquarium hosted the third annual regional Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center workshop for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions on September 21-22, 2000. Representatives from the host aquarium, the National Aquarium in Baltimore, the New York Aquarium and the Mystic Aquarium, as well as federal agency representatives from both the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Implementation Teams, participated in the workshop. The group identified a number of opportunities for collaboration between learning centers and federal agencies such as Career and Ocean Awareness Days hosted by the learning centers, and field trips to Coastal America restoration sites for Learning Center education programs. In collaboration with the Boston Public Schools and the Coastal America partnership of federal agencies, the New England Aquarium completed its third year of the Environmental Teachers Sabbatical (ETS) program. The ETS is a week-long program with two follow-up days, serving fourteen K-12 teachers. Federal agencies contribute to the program by providing educational materials and technical experts as guest lecturers, field trip guides and lab instructors. With the support of the Lucent Youth Science Initiative, the Aquarium



Role playing stakeholder perspectives of Marine Protected Areas at the New England Student Ocean Conference.

created an Environmental Leadership Team for 10-15 Boston high school students. Adult mentors/advisors on the team will include an Aquarium staff facilitator, a teacher advisor from the Boston Public Schools, and an environmental science advisor from Coastal America. On December 1, 2000, the Aquarium hosted the second Student Ocean Conference, and partners from NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary Program, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Coast Guard participated in the event.

Mystic Aquarium

On February 12-13, 2000, Mystic Aquarium hosted an “Explore Our Coasts” day. Representatives from the Coastal America federal partner agencies set up exhibits and gave talks for the several thousand attendees. Federal agency speakers discussed habitat restoration, oil spills and plastics pollution, endangered shorebirds, and coastal ecology and fisheries. The aquarium also participated in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Center Workshop in September.

As part of an overarching education and outreach theme titled “Habitats on the Edge,” the Aquarium developed two new traveling displays and brochures about the importance and functions of coastal habitats. The displays were funded by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection’s Long Island Sound License Plate Program and a Wetlands Development Grant from the EPA. The new displays were created to bring attention to Connecticut’s coastal waters and their inhabitants, and are being used by the Aquarium and other Coastal America Partners for outreach programs. One display depicts typical tidal marsh habitats found along Connecticut’s coast and the other features Atlantic coral reefs. A team of scientists and educators from the Fish and Wildlife Service and Mystic Aquarium worked together to develop the content. The goal is to continue producing habitat-specific brochures and exhibits for all habitats across the country.

Mid-Atlantic

The April meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Implementation Team included discussions on the status and progress of the region's restoration projects and revisions to the team strategy. They hosted a presentation about the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, and are working towards launching the corporate partnership in their region. The Team has been coordinating with the Mid-Atlantic Federal Partners for the Environment, and plans to establish the group as their Regional Principals. In October, members of the Mid-Atlantic Team participated in a technical symposium titled "Evaluating Estuarine Habitat in the NY/NJ Harbor," sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers, EPA's Harbor Estuary Program, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Park Service. The symposium brought experts together to present current research and discuss important issues in evaluating urban estuarine habitat.

The Cooper River Fishway Restoration Project in Haddontown, NJ was completed in 2000. The project allows fish to proceed unimpeded around two residential spillways, and in combination with downstream passages, this project opened eight miles of historic spawning and foraging areas upstream from the confluence of the Cooper and the Delaware Rivers. Benefitting species include alewife, blueback herring, and the American eel.

A ceremonial dam breaking marked the opening of the Little Falls Fishway project in 1999, and in 2000 the team received a Coastal America Partnership Award for the project. The dam, built as a water supply for Washington, DC, blocked fish access to 10 miles (1,000 acres) of spawning and nursery habitat, from Little Falls to the Great Falls on the Potomac River. George Washington was one of the first watermen on the Potomac and the shad fishery helped keep Mount Vernon viable. An earlier vertical slot fishway, built in 1959, did not pass fish and was abandoned in 1964. Stimulated by the interest of U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes, an intergovernmental task group created the innovative fishway design that reduces water velocity to levels that allow fish to move upstream despite a wide range of river flows. Since completion of the fishway, over 4.6 million American shad fry have been stocked into the Potomac River.

Another Mid-Atlantic group, the Fort McHenry Wetland Restoration Team, received the 2000 Coastal America Partnership Award for their work in restoring a tidal wetland at a ten-acre site adjacent to the Fort McHenry National Monument. This project, led by the National Aquarium in Baltimore, established the first real-time water quality monitoring station in Baltimore Harbor and serves as a model for community-based tidal wetland restoration in the Chesapeake Bay.

New York Aquarium

Over 2,900 students gathered at the New York Aquarium on May 12th to meet and network with scientists and policy makers from all areas of coastal and environmental management at the Aquarium-sponsored "Coastal America Career Day." Students visiting the Aquarium attended presentations and visited tables staffed by representatives from the National Park Service, Coast Guard, Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, NY Department of Conservation, City of New York Parks and Recreation, Villanova University, and the NY City Urban Park Rangers. The Aquarium staff provided demonstrations in water quality testing, exhibit fabrication, and animal training. The goal was to increase student awareness of coastal resource protection and management career opportunities. The New York Aquarium participated in the national Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center meeting held in conjunction with the National Marine Educators Association in Long Beach, CA in July, the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Center Workshop hosted by the New England Aquarium in September, and the NY-NJ Harbor symposium in October.

“This partnership effort, with the assistance of a multitude of employees and volunteers, has shown us what good can be accomplished when we all work together.”

Chuck Fox
Assistant Administrator,
Office of Water, EPA

**Fort McHenry Wetland
Restoration Team
Partnership Award
Ceremony,
November 2000**

National Aquarium in Baltimore

The National Aquarium in Baltimore celebrated their 19th year in 2000. Two premier volunteer programs within the Aquarium, the Aquarium Conservation Team (ACT!) and the Marine Animal Rescue Program (MARF) grew in membership in 2000 and showcased their specialties at various outreach events during the year. ACT! members conducted four public field days at the Fort McHenry field station site and participated in a tidal wetland restoration project at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge and a Submerged Aquatic Vegetation restoration project in Langley, VA. During all of these events ACT! volunteers highlighted the importance of wetlands and the need to restore them. MARF was a part of many outreach events including Maryland Public Television’s Second Annual Backyard Bash, during which they educated visitors about the importance of oceans and the environmental threats they currently face. MARF also cared for eight stranded animals this year including seals, sea turtles and a dolphin calf. Nearly 50% of the animals cared for by MARF are stranded due to some human-related cause of injury or disease.

The Aquarium has been working with Coastal America and the other Learning Centers to develop a proposal for enhancing marine mammal stranding networks by facilitating federal agency transportation assistance and support for tagging and monitoring released animals. The Aquarium’s Conservation Department also began work with the Education Department on developing a field day curriculum to be used at the Fort McHenry site. The program is targeted for fourth and fifth graders and was initially used by Francis Scott Key Elementary School, which was dedicated as the Aquarium’s “adopt a school” partner this year.

The Conservation Department attended many Coastal America meetings this year, and hosted the Fall Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee meeting and a field day during the Annual Retreat.



Volunteers at the Fort McHenry Wetland Restoration Site.

Southeast

Early in 2000, the Southeast Team began efforts to develop a process for establishing the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership in their states and a business plan to support Learning Centers in their region. Throughout the year, the Team further developed the business plan concept, refined strategies to initiate the corporate partnership, and updated the Team's Regional Action Strategy. Coastal America's military liaison and the Southeast Team Chair made presentations at the Annual EPA-Region IV/Department of Defense/State Environmental Conference to increase regional knowledge of the Coastal America process. They spoke about the Southeast Team and military involvement in the partnership, with particular emphasis on the Innovative Readiness Training program.

The Battery Island habitat restoration project, involving the creation of an artificial offshore reef, was completed in August 2000. The Air Force, SC Army National Guard and other partners collaborated on the project, using 12,000 tons of concrete from a demolished runway at the Charleston Air Force Base as the substrate for the reef. In addition, clean-up activities from the Rains Mill Dam removal were completed in 2000. The Rains Mill Dam removal team received the 2000 Coastal America Partnership Award in November, and a Special Recognition Award was presented to the Marine Wing Support Squadron 271, Cherry Point, NC for their contribution in the dam's demolition.

During the year, the Team initiated a major effort to develop a robust list of candidate partnership projects for implementation in 2001 and beyond. By year's end, over twenty new candidate projects had been identified.

In October 2000, the Team nominated the South Carolina Aquarium to become the 14th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center in the national network. Coastal America's Principals Group approved the nomination in November 2000, and the designation ceremony was held in February 2001. The South Carolina Aquarium will be a significant asset to the Learning Center network.



Removal of the Rains Mill Dam resulted in significant improvements to the Neuse River.

International Game Fish Association's Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum

The IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum hosted two Girl Scout overnight programs in the Fall of 2000. One hundred and twenty Brownies and Juniors visited the Museum and earned their EPA Water Drop Patch. One of the requirements met by each scout was to visit a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. The programs were a huge success. Attending leaders were very pleased with the program and commented that "the girls had fun and learned a lot about their environment." The Museum also worked with the Southeast Team to develop a business plan that will set priorities and guide collaborative efforts between federal agencies and the Museum.

Great Lakes

The America Heritage River's Upper Mississippi region held several initial meetings during 2000 to explore ways to expand the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership into this five-state region. Following an introductory meeting in St. Paul, MN, with a presentation made by the Coastal America Coordinating Office staff, the region is spending considerable effort to spread the word about Coastal America and the Corporate Partnership. By the end of the year there was indication that the region would try to establish the Corporate Partnership in 2001.

A multi-agency series of roundtable discussions with members of the International Joint Commission, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and the Great Lakes fishery agencies were held to discuss plans for Great Lakes fisheries management. These discussions contributed to the development of Section 506, "Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration," of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (PL 106-541) which was signed into law in December 2000. Implementation of Section 506 will involve a partnership effort among the various federal agencies, and international and interstate fishery agencies to develop a Great Lakes fishery management plan. In addition, implementation of Section 506 will authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to plan, design, construct and evaluate projects supporting the restoration of the Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem.

The Army Corps of Engineers initiated seven sea lamprey barrier studies in the Great Lakes. These studies will receive local sponsorship from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and are expected to continue into the feasibility phase in May 2001.



Parasitic sea lampreys continue to be a concern to Great Lakes fisheries.

“The partnership effort... reopened 49 miles of historic spawning ground for American shad, hickory shad, alewife, shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, and striped bass. In addition, the project improved water quality and recreational opportunities in the Neuse River Basin.”

**Al Gore
Vice President**

**Letter to the
Rains Mill Dam
Removal Team
October 2000**

Gulf of Mexico

For years Coastal America and the Gulf of Mexico Program have held compatible interests. In May, the two groups merged their efforts, and the Gulf of Mexico Management Committee was authorized to function as the Coastal America Regional Implementation Team. This arrangement allows consolidated goal setting and improves the process of both programs. Under their annual work plan, the Team must champion five Coastal America projects each year. This mandate ensures that quality projects continue to be accomplished in the region. The Gulf Team received 75 project proposals for funding in 2001. A number of these were from the Learning Centers, and many are being reviewed for eligibility in the military training program. The Team is enhancing their support of their Learning Centers by working with them to develop project proposals and involving them in a special session at the region's Comprehensive Meeting in the Spring 2001. In addition, the Team identified points of contact at each agency. These contacts will have primary responsibility for assisting the CELCs. The region nominated the Dauphin Island Sea Lab for designation as a Learning Center, and received approval at the Fall 2000 principal's meeting. A designation ceremony for the Sea Lab was held in January 2001.

A military subcommittee was established at the May meeting to review projects for possible collaboration with the Innovative Readiness Training program. The committee is currently pursuing military involvement in a project to improve tidal exchange and enhance seagrass growth in Pinellas County, FL.

In September, the Breton Island Restoration Team received a 2000 Coastal America Partnership Award. The award was given as part of a two day event that brought together experts throughout the region who work together on coastal conservation and restoration.

A presentation was given on the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, and the Team has begun to initiate the Corporate Partnership in the Gulf region. Duke Energy has agreed to be the regional lead for the Corporate Partnership in the Gulf, and are reviewing candidate project proposals to support their first project in the region.



Breton Island, LA.

“Restoring 26 acres of the island through beneficial use of dredged material and protecting another 620 acres of shallow intertidal waters is a significant accomplishment.”

This effort clearly typifies the benefits that can be gained when we focus our energies together on achieving environmental goals.”

Jack Caldwell
Secretary of Louisiana
Department of
Natural Resources

Breton Island
Restoration Team
Partnership Award
Ceremony,
September 2000

Texas State Aquarium

The Texas State Aquarium participated in the Texas Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) held at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in February. The Aquarium hosted a welcoming reception, and several staff, including the Executive Director, volunteered as panelists during the event. The Aquarium’s Program Development Specialist represented the Texas Regional Coordinator at the NOSB finals and at the September Regional Coordinator’s meeting.

On April 7-8th the Aquarium and the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary hosted a teacher workshop entitled “Diving Into Aquatics.” Participants enjoyed an overnight at the Aquarium and left with great aquatic ideas and activities to take back to their classrooms. Several Coastal America partners were guest speakers during the Aquarium’s SeaCamp 2000, a summer program that services over 700 children each year. Representatives from NOAA’s Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and National Weather Service, the National Resources Conservation Center, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Coast Guard all participated in the program. The Aquarium’s Interpretive Specialist consulted with the Department of the Interior – Padre Island National Seashore on the development of their long-range interpretive plan. In December, a program for the Girl Scout Paisano Council was piloted at the Aquarium. Participating scouts earned a “Sea to Shore” badge after completing the day-long, hands-on event. The National Weather Service and the Gulf of Mexico Foundation helped with the day’s activities which focused on the local coastal environment.

Florida Aquarium

The Florida Aquarium, in partnership with the Tampa Port Authority, initiated an effort to restore and enhance a small island located in Hillsborough Bay. The project involves removal of exotic species and the creation of micro-habitats that are representative of the Bay, such as the inner tidal zone, upland scrub, mangrove forest and salt marsh. Interpretive signs, trails, and boardwalks will provide public education about the habitats that comprise the Bay. The Naval Reserve Center is providing in-kind services and equipment for site work, and the project’s advisory committee includes a number of federal agency partners.

The Florida Aquarium also began planning for an exhibit on marine invasive species in Florida, the Southeast, and the Gulf of Mexico. This exhibit will help raise public awareness of one of the priority regional issues identified by the Gulf of Mexico Program. The Aquarium is working with the Hatfield Marine Science Center and other Learning Centers to share knowledge and expertise, to convey a consistent message to the public about the issue of invasive species. The Aquarium launched an eco-tourism program and a comprehensive high school curriculum on the Tampa Bay Estuary in collaboration with the Tampa Bay Port Authority, local school districts, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and the West Central Florida Environmental Education Regional Service Project. In addition, the Aquarium received a grant from the Conservation Education Fund (CEF) to build a facility that will serve as a model system for propagation of Caribbean coral species. In an effort to help decrease the impacts of coral collection, fragments grown at the facility will be made available to American Zoo and Aquarium Association institutions for educational exhibits. The fragments will also be available for reef restoration projects through cooperative efforts with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the University of Florida’s Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory. This project follows a previous CEF investment for a Pacific coral propagation facility at the Waikiki Aquarium in Hawaii.

Southwest

The Southwest Implementation Team works closely with the Southern California Wetland Recovery Program, a Southern California partnership of federal, state, local, and non-governmental groups. The Team took part in endorsing the Wetland Recovery Program's 2000/2001 Work Plan, which included support for 31 wetland recovery projects in the region. The Southwest Team also participated in collaborative discussions and a regional panel at the Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) Symposium. The Team is working to broaden the connection between the WRP and Coastal America, and to expand upon existing synergies between the two programs. In August the Partners for the Conservation of Los Osos Coastal Dunes, near Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, Central California, received the 2000 Coastal America Partnership award. At the time of the Award nomination, the team had helped to restore 35 acres and protect another 1,200 acres of coastal dune ecosystems, riparian corridors, and wetland habitats. In the ensuing year, the team preserved more than 200 additional acres.



Wetland and dune ecosystem, Los Osos, CA.

Late in 1999, three new restoration projects were endorsed by the Southwest Implementation Team: the Ballona Wetlands project, which will increase tidal flow to 260 acres of wetlands through use of a tidegate; the Bolsa Chica project to restore tidal flow to a degraded 42 acre site; and the Lower Newport Bay project to develop productive habitat as a nursery and refuge for highly diverse plant and animal communities. Each of these projects continued on schedule in 2000.

Monterey Bay Aquarium

A Monterey Bay Aquarium veterinarian tailored a successful drug protocol for California sea otters suffering from a disease known as protozoal encephalitis. In the past the disease has been fatal, but this breakthrough in drug treatment, coupled with intensive hands-on care at the Aquarium, saved the lives of two threatened sea otters. The disease is believed to be caused by polluted runoff into coastal waters. If this is true, the incidence of disease in sea otters may have human health implications, since people who swim in affected waters or eat contaminated raw shellfish could also contract protozoal infections.

The U.S. Postal Service unveiled its Deep Sea Creatures commemorative stamps on October 2, 2000 in a public ceremony at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The Aquarium and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute were chosen to host this national first-day-of-issue ceremony because the two institutions work closely together to bring the wonders of the deep sea to the public. The Aquarium's "Mysteries of the Deep" exhibit is the largest living exhibit of deep sea animals ever created and received the highest exhibit award presented by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) at the AZA 2000 conference in September.

October was National Seafood Month, and the Aquarium used the opportunity to launch a partnership with Whole Foods markets and the Bon Appetit Management Company. This collaboration is raising consumer awareness about the impact that seafood-purchasing decisions have on the health of ocean wildlife. The sixteen Whole Foods markets in Northern California and Washington distributed the Aquarium's "Seafood Watch" consumer buying guides in their seafood departments and highlight "Seafood Watch Best Choices" with signs inside the seafood display cases to alert consumers that selected species are rated by the Aquarium as coming from well-managed sources. Bon Appetit Management Co. operates corporate and educational food services at 150 locations nationwide and has adopted "Seafood Watch" guidelines for all of its menus. In addition to the Aquarium, Bon Appetit's blue-chip client list includes Hewlett-Packard, Oracle, Netscape, Georgetown University Law School, Loyola University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania.

“I present to you an ‘Oli, a welcoming chant, in honor of the designation ceremony of the Waikiki Aquarium. The ‘Oli encourages all to become stewards of the land by embracing the source of all goodness, ka honua, the Earth.”

**David Hana’ike
Kumu Akeakamai -
Loyal Supporter of
Marine Education**

**Designation ceremony,
Waikiki Aquarium,
March 2000**

Pacific Islands

Formed in 1999, the Pacific Islands Regional Implementation Team is rapidly establishing Coastal America relations and identifying local teams and appropriate projects. They are making strides in collaborating with their military partners, and established a military subcommittee at their May meeting to further facilitate this partnership. The subgroup will assist the Team Chair in identifying military units and regional Coastal America projects that have potential for collaboration. This specialized group has been instrumental in encouraging and arranging military involvement in local projects. For instance, they have arranged for a tour of a Navy vessel as a highlight of the 2001 Pacific High School Science Symposium. The Pacific Islands



The Pacific Islands Team is planning to use an aquatic excavator to remove aquatic invasive species.

Team is discussing the possibility of three Innovative Readiness Training projects in the region. They have also requested military assistance with shipping and transporting a floating hydraulic shovel. The shovel is to be used in Oahu to remove invasive mangrove species and to complete other wetland improvements. In addition, military support has been requested to relocate an aquarium tank at the local Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center, the Waikiki Aquarium.

The Pacific Islands Team used their summer meeting to determine procedures for evaluating and selecting Coastal America projects. Local communities participated in the meeting, providing endorsement to include several of their local projects as Coastal America projects.

Waikiki Aquarium

On March 17th, the Waikiki Aquarium was designated as the 11th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center in the national network of aquariums and marine science centers. Members of Coastal America’s national and regional teams attended the Designation Ceremony, which was led by Michael Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. The ceremony also involved Congressional, state, and local representatives, including Hawaii Senator Daniel Akaka, Dr. Alan Teramura for the University of Hawaii, and many others.

Working with the Fish and Wildlife Service and University of Hawaii-Hilo, the Aquarium offered three week-long eco-learning programs at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. One of the programs, a college-credit course on shark behavior, marked the beginning of a collaborative effort with the Fish and Wildlife Service to tag sharks and track their numbers, movements, and the impact of ecotourism activities on their behavior.

The Aquarium hosted the Pacific Islands Team meeting in July. The Aquarium is working with the Team to bring together colleagues from the University of Hawaii and Reef Check to discuss a project to remove an invasive algal species from Waikiki reefs.

Northwest

The Northwest Implementation Team revitalized itself in 2000, thanks to the dedication and hard work of the regional federal agency representatives. In February 2000, the director of the national Coastal America office met with interested agencies in Seattle. The discussion concerned the restructuring of the Northwest Team and the designation of the Seattle Aquarium as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. Genuine interest and motivation was expressed in revitalizing the Team, and an executive intern from the National Park Service was appointed to assist the Team. The Northwestern Division of the Army Corps of Engineers agreed to chair the Team until a permanent chair is selected.



Site of the wetland restoration project between the NWRIT and the Hatfield Marine Science Center.

In March, the newly constituted Team met to discuss their strategy. Representatives from federal, state, and local agencies attended the meeting. By the end of the day, the group had established the region's intent to fully support Coastal America, in particular the Learning Center concept. A new organizational structure and Team strategy was outlined and agreed to. Several potential projects were also discussed. Participants identified coastal education as a priority, nominated the Seattle Aquarium as a Learning Center, and agreed to fully support their regional Learning Centers.

The Seattle Aquarium was officially nominated for designation as a Learning Center, and in June it became the 12th Learning Center in the network. Collaborations with the Learning Centers allow the agencies to contribute directly to the community through education and conservation/restoration projects. In order to better service

their Learning Centers, the Team voted to include an education and outreach subgroup in their organizational structure. This subgroup is already collaborating with the Hatfield Marine Science Center. They are building a wetland using dredged materials and will use the project as an educational display. The Corps conducted a feasibility study for the project as a "Support for Others" effort, and the project is now proceeding to the next phase of planning. As part of the cost-sharing requirement, the Science Center and EPA have agreed to contribute funding and expertise. This renewed and functioning wetland will illustrate the full range of capabilities of the partnership.

The Northwest Team met two additional times in 2000. They approved seven projects and nominated five others for approval. In addition, they finalized a new strategic plan; established an organizational structure which included sub-groups, points of contact, and a military coordinator; and initiated a fact sheet to track and document potential projects. A subgroup is developing an evaluation system to use with the project fact sheets. These fact sheets and evaluation criteria will eventually be presented on a regional website being developed by the Navy.

The Team is working with the military to investigate the possibility of removing obsolete dams in the Rogue River as part of the Innovative Readiness Training Program. Military interest in these projects was generated when the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Engineering Unit in Oregon constructed fencing around one of these dams. The area was considered a safety hazard, and the new fence is restricting access until the structure can be removed.

Representatives from the Regional Team and their two Learning Centers participated in the Northwest Regional Learning Center Workshop at the Alaska SeaLife Center in October. The Science Center and the Regional Team also attended the Coastal America retreat in Annapolis.

“Before I came to the Student Ocean Conference I thought about the future of our environment and how people can influence others to make correct choices.”

And now I think that I will be the one to communicate with youth and inform them of facts and options.”

**Student Report,
Seattle Aquarium
Student Ocean
Conference,
November 2000**

Hatfield Marine Science Center

In June 2000, members of the Northwest Team met with representatives from the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon and began collaboration on a wetlands restoration demonstration project at the Science Center. The sandflats and salt marsh will be restored from old dredged material fill and be used primarily as an educational display. The new habitat will be a functioning wetland that demonstrates the value of the partnership process.

The Pacific Northwest Marine Invasive Species Team, a partnership between the Oregon and Washington Sea Grant Programs, has launched an effort to develop aquatic invasive species exhibits at the Science Center and the Point Defiance Aquarium in Tacoma, Washington. Both exhibits will present general information on biological invasions and examples of non-native aquatic species that occur in the Pacific Northwest and other regions. Other topics include introduction pathways, impacts, and prevention/control opportunities. The exhibits aim to increase public awareness, stimulate critical thinking about the role of non-native species, and influence visitor behavior relative to certain pathways (e.g., disposal of live bait) and detection/reporting. The involvement of Oregon State University and the University of Washington allows for the participation of undergraduate and graduate students in exhibit research and development. Through partnerships with other educational facilities and agencies, successful exhibits at these two Pacific Northwest sites may lead to replication and expansion at many more venues on a national scale.

The Seattle Aquarium

On June 26th, The Seattle Aquarium was designated as the 12th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center in the national network. Dr. Joseph Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and Chair of Coastal America served as the designating official and Master of Ceremonies. Congratulatory remarks were given by Paul Schell, Mayor of Seattle and Governor Locke’s representative Nancy McKay, Chair of the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team. Gilbert King George of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe performed a blessing of the Aquarium. Thirteen federal agencies presented gifts to the Aquarium, representing their commitment to work in partnership to educate and involve the public in stewardship of coastal and marine resources.



The Seattle Aquarium.

On November 6-7th, the Seattle Aquarium hosted the first-ever Student Ocean Conference. Coastal America’s federal partners from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Coast Guard, EPA, and the Army Corps of Engineers participated in the event.

The Aquarium began upgrading their Marine Mammal Viewing Area with funding and other assistance from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The improvements should be complete in early 2001.

Alaska

The Alaska Team has been active in numerous projects this year. They reviewed and reworked their Strategic Plan, incorporating other regions' effective components into their revision. The new plan provides for a more focused approach to restoration and partnership. In addition, the Team decided to formalize their procedure for endorsing projects, and developed a new form to use for the process. They also agreed to meet more frequently, in order to increase Team cohesiveness, reduce the length of meetings, and communicate more frequently about project progress.



Infrastructure to support visitors is critical for Alaska's rivers and streams.

Several new projects are being reviewed for endorsement, including efforts to develop Environmental Sensitivity Maps, removal of debris along the Katmai National Park Coastline, bank stabilization efforts, and fish passage improvements. In Katmai, the National Park Service is seeking funding and logistical support to clean up the large section of coastline. Specifically, boat support is needed for the project, and the Team is investigating the possibility of partnering with the Coast Guard. The Team discussed the option of involving the military's Innovative Readiness Training Program in this and other projects. Finally, the feasibility report was completed for the Duck Creek project in the end of May. The Team is discussing plans to post their project lists on a webpage.

The Team began planning for the Alaska Forum on the Environment in February 2001. The cornerstone to their planning for the Forum was the renewed effort through the Alaska Coastal Management Program to include the State of Alaska as a partner in the Coastal America Process. In addition, time was spent preparing a Coastal America session for the Forum, with segments on the Innovative Readiness Training Program, the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, and the Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership. In addition, a Regional Principals meeting was scheduled into the Forum, where the Partnership Agreement was signed.

In honor of their achievements as a multi-agency working group, the Alaska Implementation Team received their 1999 Coastal America Partnership Award at the Alaska Forum on the Environment Conference in February 2000. In addition, the Kenai River Resource Protection and Education Team received their 1999 Coastal America Partnership Award at the grand opening of the Kenai River Center in September 2000.

In October, Team members participated in the Alaska and Northwest Regional Learning Center Workshop, a two-day event which provided an opportunity for idea-sharing between the federal agency representatives and the Learning Centers. The Team continued to work closely with the Alaska SeaLife Center, their Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center, to further the development of strong regional networks and substantive programs.

“We are pleased that this partnership has allowed us to expand our marine science education for young people.

We believe that opportunities such as this encourage young people to develop strong conservation ethics and learn about the importance of the marine environment.”

**James Balsiger
Regional Administrator,
Alaska Region,
NOAA’s National
Marine Fisheries
Service**

**Press Release,
Alaska and Northwest
Regional Workshop,
December 2000**

Alaska SeaLife Center

In September, the Alaska SeaLife Center was awarded a grant from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust for “Project MASTER: Marine Animals and Satellite Telemetry in Research and Education.” The grant will pay for satellite tags, allowing researchers, students and the general public to track the movements of rehabilitated marine mammals after their release. Federal agencies such as the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and NOAA will contribute to the program through such efforts as providing links to other animal tracking projects, ocean monitoring data, and mapping software. An interdisciplinary curriculum for grades 3-12 will facilitate classroom use of the Project MASTER data.

The USGS is testing the use of satellite pop-up tags on live halibut at the SeaLife Center. If successful, this technology could be used to assess the condition of critical marine habitat in the Gulf of Alaska. The SeaLife Center also received a substantial grant from NOAA to study the cause of the Steller sea lion decline.

Working with NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service, the SeaLife Center provided support to the Girl Scout Susitna Council Troop 760, in their development of a “Rehabilitation Station” program. The program focuses on young people’s appreciation and understanding of critical coastal issues, such as damage to habitat and natural resources from pollution and oil spills. In addition, it introduces scientific methods and new technology being used to study these issues. The program also familiarizes the scouts with career opportunities and funding issues as they relate to restoration and rehabilitation. Troop 760 is looking to expand the program by developing a new Coastal America badge for Girl Scout troops around the country. The SeaLife Center hosted the Alaska and Northwest Regional Learning Center Workshop in October 2000.



The Alaska Team and Alaska SeaLife Center are working closely with the Susitna Council Girl Scouts to develop a marine conservation badge.

The three-day event included a Girl Scout demonstration of their “Rehabilitation Station” program, Learning Center overviews of their recent and upcoming partnership projects, and the agency descriptions of the educational programs and resources that they can make available.

V. Looking Forward

A decade after its establishment, Coastal America is stronger than ever. In ten years the Partnership has celebrated many achievements, from developing the first-of-its-kind public-private wetlands restoration partnership in the nation, to reaching more than 10 million people each year through the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center network. Add this to the more than 500 projects across the country, all of which pull together the resources and energies of local, state, and federal team members, and it's easy to see the giant strides that have been made in a mere 10 years. The projects have undoubtedly improved the condition of our nation's coastal and wetland areas. They have also served to involve a great number of partners, and in doing so, they have increased the understanding and support for protecting our country's marine resources.

The partnership looks forward to the next year, and next decade, as a chance to expand upon its past successes. Projects will continue to involve powerful collaborative efforts. As we enter Coastal America's second decade, the Regional Implementation Teams are stronger than ever. They are supporting a growing number of projects each year, and meeting the challenge with ongoing dedication and increasing support. All teams used the year 2000 to revisit and improve their regional strategies, and will now be even better equipped to carry out projects in the future.



Coastal America's new and always-improving partnership efforts will continue to protect and restore our nation's coastal and wetland habitats.

In the year 2000, the **Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership** broke ground and gained momentum at every turn. More than a dozen projects were initiated and another dozen are slated for 2001. The Corporate Partnership's National Advisory Council is committed to establishing the public-private partnership in each state, and following the Northeast's lead, four additional regions have already taken steps to initiate the partnership in 2001. As others see the tremendous success of the program, the Corporate Partnership is expected to be an integral component of our nation's wetland restoration efforts within the next few years, and will play a significant role in assisting in the national goal of restoring 100,000 acres annually by 2005. The Corporate Partnership will also assist in efforts to educate the public about the importance of aquatic habitat restoration.

“Coastal America is a very good example where you have a program that required no additional federal money, but it was a framework for federal agencies, in particular, to sit at the table and set some priorities and look at the respective authorities and tools and coordinate, and we’ve put some really important projects on the ground doing that.”

Michael Davis
Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Civil
Works, Department of
the Army

**Testimony to the House
Subcommittee on
Fisheries Conservation,
Wildlife & Oceans on
the Estuary Habitat
Restoration Act**

The **Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers** continue to meet with great success, with two centers designated in 2000 and another two approved to be designated in 2001. As this program evolves, new opportunities are being discovered for the federal partners to collaborate with the Learning Centers, and the services provided to the public are improving accordingly. The Learning Centers are developing projects and programs that further link them together, with initiatives such as the national Student Ocean Conferences. In the coming years, opportunities for other national programs will be pursued, including a national Girl Scout badge program, an environmental teacher sabbatical program, and the enhancement of marine mammal stranding networks.

The **military services** will continue to support the goals of Coastal America. Military subcommittees have been developed for each of the Regional Implementation Teams, and will be used to identify collaborative opportunities for military units in their areas. At the national level, the Military Liaison will continue to work with the regional teams and military organizations to match the needs of the military with the goals of the Coastal America Partnership. The regional teams are enthusiastic about partnering their Coastal America projects with the Department of Defense’s capabilities. Nearly a dozen prospective projects are currently in the pipeline.

The Coastal America partnership will continue to champion a broad watershed approach to coastal ecosystem management, and encourage other state and federal agencies to incorporate this approach into their management strategies. The Coastal America Partnership can serve as a roadmap for these efforts, as it continues to demonstrate that partnerships are the most efficient and effective means of protecting our country’s coastal and marine resources.



A broad view of ecosystem functioning remains the guiding principle of the Coastal America Partnership.

FEDERAL PARTNERS

Executive Office of the President

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

Department of Agriculture

Farm Services Administration (FSA)

Forest Service (USFS)

National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Department of the Air Force

Department of the Army

Army Reserves

Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Department of Defense

Department of Energy

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Minerals Management Service (MMS)

National Park Service (NPS)

Geological Survey (USGS)

Department of the Navy

Navy (USN)

Marine Corps (USMC)

Department of Transportation

Coast Guard (USCG)

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

Maritime Administration (MARAD)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

General Services Administration

Marine Mammal Commission

National Science Foundation

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

Alaska SeaLife Center
P.O. Box 1329
Seward, AK 99664
907-224-6300
www.alaskasealife.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

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

CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

National Advisory Council

National Association of Manufacturers
– National Sponsor
The Gillette Company
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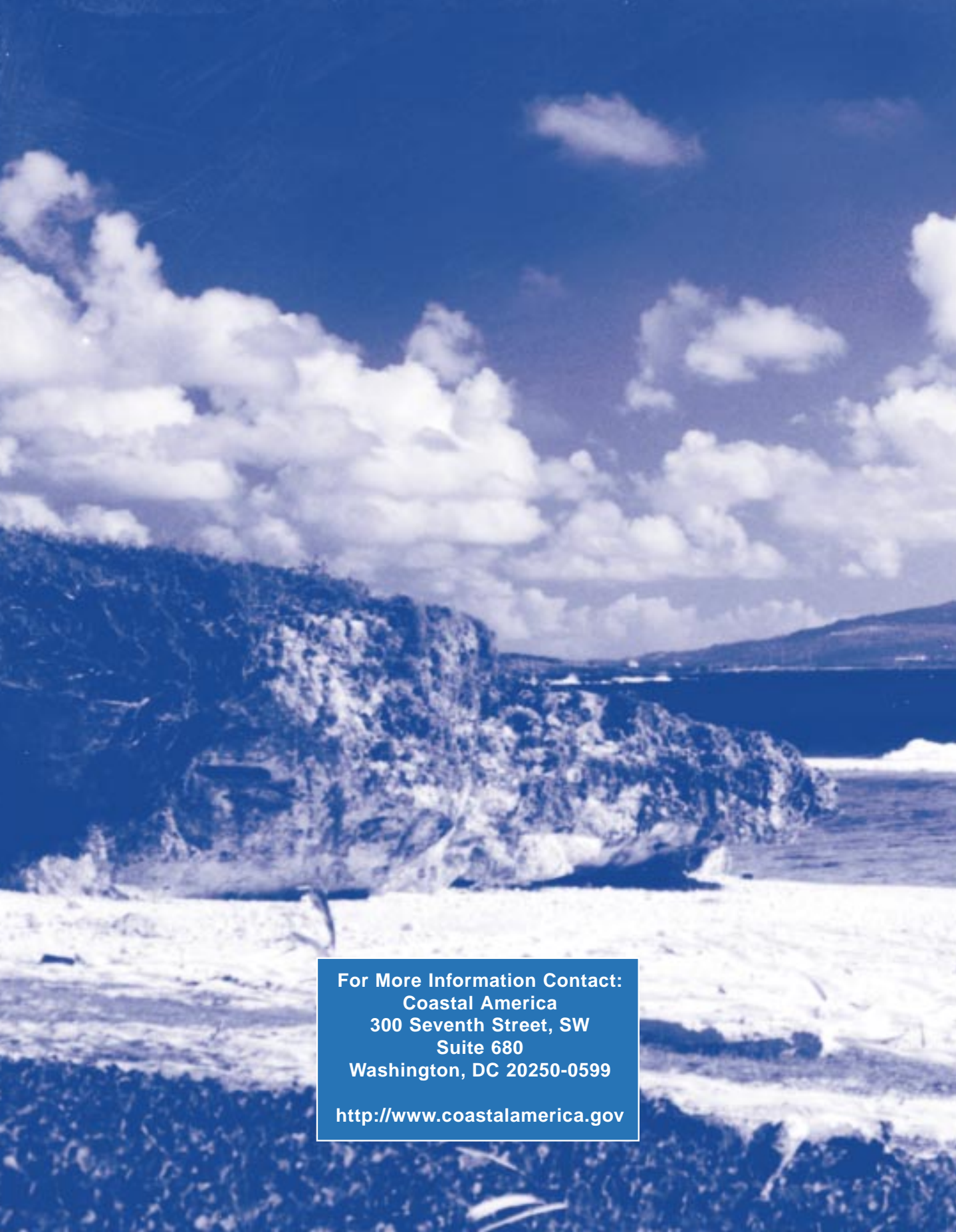
Battelle
Boehringer Ingelheim
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Capaccio Environmental Engineering
Casco Bay Energy Company, LLC
Clean Harbors
Cyn Environmental
Duke Energy
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Earth Tech
ECAP
Environmental Science Services
Epsilon Associates
ERM-New England
ERM - Group Foundation Inc.
The Foxboro Company
Genzyme Corporation
The Gillette Company
Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline
Massachusetts Electric Company
Normandeau Associates
Northeast Utilities
PG&E Generating
Polaroid Corporation
Raytheon Company

Non-Profit Members - MA

Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Association of MA Wetlands Scientists
Boston Natural Areas Fund
Charles River Watershed Association
Connecticut River Watershed Council
Ducks Unlimited
Environmental Business Council of New England
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Friends of Hall's Pond
Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Ipswich River Watershed Association
MA Association of Conservation Commissions
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Merrimack River Watershed Council
Nashua River Watershed Association
Neponset River Watershed Association
New England Aquarium
Parker River Clean Water Association
Saugus River Watershed Council
SuAsCo Watershed Coalition
SuAsCo Watershed Community Council
Sudbury Valley Trustees
Taunton River Watershed Alliance
The Nature Conservancy - MA
University of MA - Urban Harbors Institute



To date, over 550 non-Federal partners have taken part in the Coastal America Partnership. For a complete listing of these private corporations, non-governmental organizations, educational facilities, and state and local governments, please visit <http://www.coastalamerica.gov>.



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