



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

Volume 12 • Number 4 • WINTER 2000/2001

PRINCIPALS MEETING

The fall Principal's meeting was held on November 8, 2000. The main topics discussed were:

- 1 Coastal America Update:** The Principals recommended increasing efforts to inform people about Coastal America by expanding the distribution of the newsletter and other materials to environmental groups and other organizations. They also reaffirmed their commitment to the FY2001 program and budget.
- 2 Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers:** The Principals discussed the need for the regional teams to support the learning centers. They approved the nominations of both the South Carolina Aquarium and Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Alabama to become Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers.
- 3 Chafee Award:** The Principals agreed on the selection criteria and list of final candidates for the Award.
- 4 Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership:** The Principals discussed the need to grow the CWRP and increase awareness of the program among the business and environmental community.
- 5 New Directions:** The Principals discussed transition issues and the importance of ensuring continuity in the partnership activities.

2001 ANNUAL RETREAT

*Calling All Partners to the
10th Annual Coastal America Retreat*

The Gulf of Mexico team will be hosting this year's retreat in Louisiana during the late Spring. This is a great chance to exchange success stories, brainstorm new ideas, and get to know the folks who make Coastal America shine. We hope to see you all there!



Enthusiastic participants at the 2000 Annual Retreat, watching the tall ships of OPSail 2000.

In This Issue:

Principals Meeting	1
Partnership Awards	2
Science and Technical Advisory Committee	3
Student Ocean Conferences A Great Success!	4
Learning Centers in Alabama and South Carolina	5
CELC Updates	6
Project Spotlight	7
Regional CELC Workshops	8
Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership	9
Regional Updates	10
Upcoming Events	12

PARTNERSHIP AWARD CEREMONIES

FORT McHENRY WETLAND RESTORATION TEAM

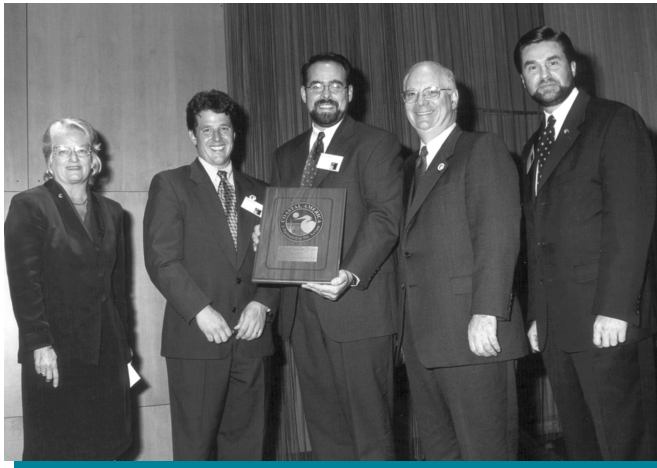
The Fort McHenry Wetland Restoration Team received the 2000 Coastal America Partnership Award on November 9, 2000, at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. This award recognizes the

efforts of the Aquarium and a diverse group of public and private organizations who worked in partnership to restore habitat and enhance environmental education and outreach.

In addition, the team established the first real-time water quality monitoring station in Baltimore Harbor.

The project serves as a model for community-based tidal wetland restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. Restoration efforts include invasive species management, replanting of native vegetation, debris removal, oyster bar placement, and habitat enhancement. Environmental education and outreach are important aspects of the project, including a job-training program for Morgan State University students.

Congressman Benjamin L. Cardin provided opening remarks at the ceremony. Chuck Fox, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, EPA presented the awards and was assisted by Mike Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.



Glenn Page (center) accepts award from (left to right) Virginia Tiggie, Chuck Fox, Congressman Cardin, and Mike Davis.

In partnership with federal, state and local agencies, and private alliances, Aquarium staff and volunteers have restored and continue to maintain a 10-acre tidal wetland adjacent to Fort McHenry National Monument. The wetland was created in 1982 to fulfill mitigation requirements related to the construction of the Ft. McHenry tunnel.

RAINS MILL DAM

On October 18, 2000, the Rains Mill Dam Removal Team received the 2000 Coastal America Partnership Award in Raleigh, NC. The partnership effort to remove the Rains Mill Dam on the Little River in the Neuse River Basin, North Carolina, 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.

Rains Mill Dam, a 250-foot-long by 12-foot-high monolithic structure, was

built in 1923 to provide hydropower for a gristmill on the north end and later a sawmill and cotton gin on the south end. The dam has served no active purpose since 1978, but continued to block the migration of economically important

fish species. On December 1, 1999, this obsolete dam was removed. The partners worked together for over a year, providing environmental planning assistance, legal advice, and explosive expertise to develop and implement the project.



Robert Pirie, Jr., Under Secretary of the Navy, was assisted by Bill Holman, Secretary of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in presenting the partnership awards. Under Secretary Pirie also presented a Special Recognition Award, assisted by Major General Ronald Richard, to Marine Wing Support Squadron 271 for their contribution to the project.

A significant innovation with the Rains Mill Dam Project was that active duty military personnel removed the dam. Marine Corps combat engineers from Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina planned the dam's demolition and orchestrated all aspects of the event - from ordnance storage, to demolition techniques, to personnel safety.

MASSACHUSETTS WETLAND RESTORATION AND BANKING PROGRAM

The 2000 Partnership Award was presented to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Wetlands Restoration and Banking Program and the MA Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partners on November 29, 2000, at the Coastal Marsh Restoration Symposium in Plymouth, MA. The Gillette Company received a Coastal America Special Recognition Award for their leadership role in establishing the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership.

In 1994, Coastal America and the state of Massachu-

setts signed an agreement to restore and protect wetlands throughout the state. Massachusetts was the first state in the country to create an office dedicated to wetlands restoration: The Wetlands and Restoration Banking Program of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA). Working with Coastal

America's Northeast team, they implemented an aggressive program to restore local wetlands. In 1999, the Massachusetts EOEA, in cooperation with The Gillette Company and the US EPA - Region 1, developed the corporate wetlands restoration partnership concept. Since the Fall of 1999,

21 companies and 25 NGOs have joined the partnership, contributing over \$1 million. The Massachusetts program was expanded to include the Northeast Region in January 2000, and the entire country in May 2000.



Dr. Joseph Westphal, Assistant Secretary for the Army - Civil Works, assisted by Mindy Lubber, EPA Regional Administrator, presented the awards. Robert Durand, Secretary, Massachusetts EOEA, and Dr. A. Wallace Hayes, Vice President for Corporate Product Integrity for Gillette, also participated.

SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On October 18th Coastal America's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee met at the National Aquarium in Baltimore for their Fall 2000 meeting. Ken Turgeon, Chief Scientist of MMS and STAC Chair, and Jeff Payne, Deputy Director of the NOAA Coastal Services Center and STAC Vice-Chair, led the meeting participants in a review of STAC's previous meetings and creating a vision for STAC's future. STAC's membership has changed recently, with participation by some agencies such as USDA, changing hands, and new participating agencies, such as USGS, joining the working group. RIT chairs participated via conference call, in order to help match STAC's technical abilities to the needs of the Regions.

Topics of discussion at the meeting included:

- 1 Whether STAC should serve primarily as a tactical group or a strategic planning group. It is likely that they will fill both roles as the need arises.
- 2 Developing guidelines to measure the success of restoration projects. Gary Hollands, ENSR, joined the conversation by telephone, and briefed the STAC on the November wetlands symposium in Massachusetts and its relevance to developing measures of success.
- 3 Providing support to the Regions and their Learning Centers.

- 4 Developing a set of guidelines to aid in wetland restoration projects, as requested by the RITs.
- 5 A brief presentation on dam removal was given by Bob Wengrzynek, NRCS, in which he described the NERIT's work with removal of obsolete dams and explained some of the real and perceived problems associated with such removals. The STAC will be examining ways to address these issues, including possibly developing a lessons learned report or conducting a workshop on dam removal.

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

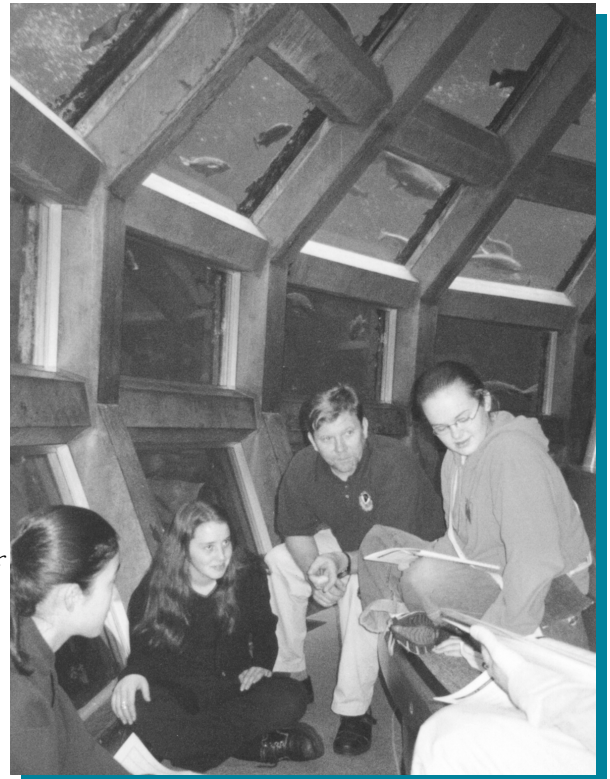
STUDENT OCEAN CONFERENCES ARE A HIT!

The Seattle Aquarium

The first-ever Student Ocean Conference was a terrific success, and paved the way for other interactive, educational, and exciting conferences to follow in its footsteps! On November 6th and 7th, 55 high school students gathered with teachers and chaperones at the Seattle Aquarium to participate in the conference. Representatives from NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, EPA, Coast Guard, and USACE participated as conference planners and field trip leaders. Highlights of the conference included field trips involving boat trips, use of a Remotely Operated Vehicle, and a role-playing session with National

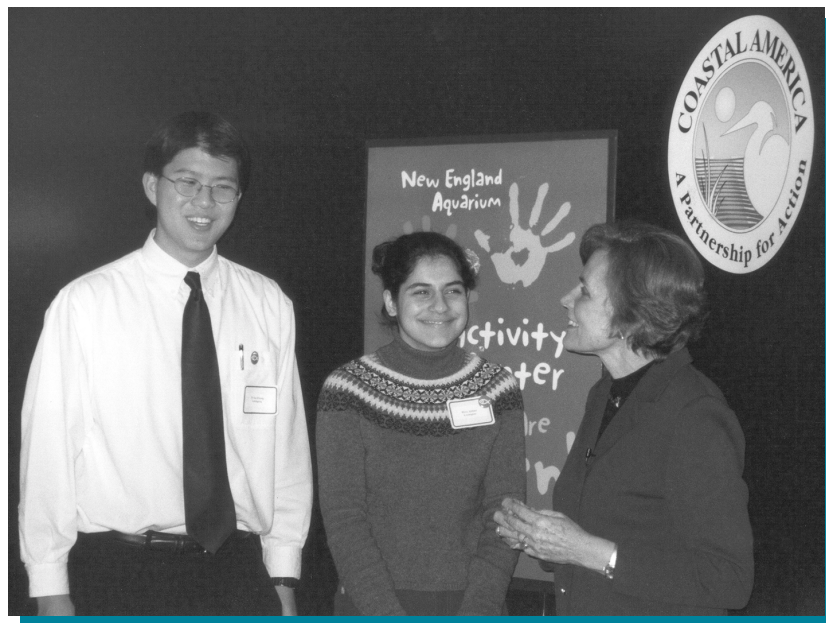
Geographic Society's (NGS) Explorer in Residence, Dr. Sylvia Earle; a sleep-over with night education programs at the aquarium, and a Q&A session with Dr. Earle. Please visit <http://www.coastalamerica.gov/text/soc.html> for more information and photos.

Bob Steelquist, Olympic Coast NMS, conducts a workshop under the giant aquarium dome.



The New England Aquarium Student Ocean Conference

The second Student Ocean Conference, held on December 1, 2000 at the New England Aquarium, was also a fantastic success! Fifty-two students grade 7-12, from six schools in the greater Boston area and Providence, RI gathered at the Aquarium to participate in this interactive and exciting Conference. Additional participants in the day's activities included Sylvia Earle, local federal agency representatives from the Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, and NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, NGS professionals from the Sustainable Seas Expedition, Assistant Director of the NGS Geography Education Program Joe Ferguson, Virginia Tippie, and other Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center representatives. The students spent the day learning about, proposing, and ardently debating potential management strategies for the Stellwagen Bank NMS. Please visit <http://www.coastalamerica.gov/text/soc.html> for more information and photos.



Dr. Sylvia Earle, Ocean Explorer, meets with students at the New England Aquarium's Student Ocean Conference.

TWO NEW COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS JOIN THE NETWORK

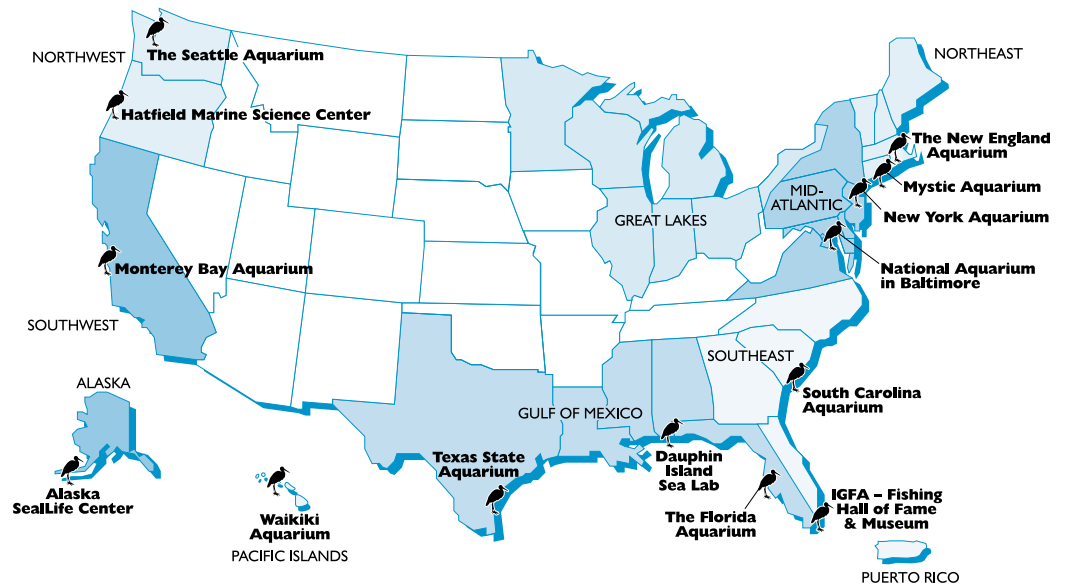
Two new Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELCs) were approved at the Fall Principal's meeting as the 13th and 14th CELCs in the national learning center network. A designation ceremony for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab will be held at the facility on January 16, 2001. The designation for the South Carolina Aquarium will be held February 5, 2001.

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) is a university-level marine research lab serving 22 colleges and universities within the State of Alabama. The Discovery Hall Programs at the Sea Lab offer field-based marine science programs in ½ day to 5 day residential opportunities to over 14,000 K-12 students during the academic year. The Estuarium is DISL's outreach opportunity for the general public. The Estuarium features the four key habitats that make up the Mobile Bay estuary: the Delta, Bay, Barrier Island and Near Shore Gulf of Mexico communities. A growing number of visitors are coming to the Estuarium to learn about the life within the Mobile Bay Estuary.

The Sea Lab emphasizes age-appropriate materials and skills. The evolution of the "Estuarium" concept has stimulated and enriched the aquarium's approach to dealing with the various student levels. For instance, they focus on reading and writing (through marine-related activities, of course!) with the younger students. As the students grow, they are exposed to ever-broadening conservation themes, and their commitment to conservation is ultimately based on a firm and logical foundation of understanding science.

John Dindo, Chairman of the Discovery Hall Program at DISL, is the liaison to the newly designated CELC. John was trained in the natural sciences, and completed doc-



toral research on avian migration and colonial nesting. While working on his degree he was asked to take over and expand a high school marine science program. Eventually he incorporated opportunities in the marine sciences for K-12 as well as the general public into the program. This background provided him with insight into the needs of students in science.

South Carolina Aquarium

The South Carolina Aquarium opened in May 2000, with public education as a top priority. Based on the recommendations of over 200 South Carolina school teachers and educators, the Aquarium staff, working with teachers throughout the state, developed the program's curriculum in accordance with state and national science standards. By October 2000, it had ushered in its first structured school groups of South Carolina students and teachers participating in the Aquarium's standards-based curriculum and gallery learning experience. Each of these groups, which represent public and private school classes from K-12, is required to take part in the Aquarium's teacher training and programed lessons prior to

and following their visit. As a result of their commitment, these school groups are being admitted free of charge.

Conservation education is an equally important aspect of the Aquarium's mission: the South Carolina Aquarium actively partners with South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, National Audubon Society Living Oceans Campaign, Grey's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, The Nature Conservancy, The South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, and the World Wildlife Fund.

Rhet Wilson, Director of Education, is the CELC liaison for the Aquarium. While working at the SC Sea Grant Consortium, she coordinated public education and research projects. Her work with the South Carolina Aquarium project began in 1984, when she assisted the Mayor of Charleston with campaigns for funding from state and local governments, negotiated with local, state and federal agencies and was involved in the development of other aspects of the project including interpretation and exhibit development, community relations, volunteer programs, education program development and board committee development.

CELC UPDATES

New England Aquarium

The 2nd Student Ocean Conference was held at the aquarium on December 1st (details, pg. 4). The aquarium is currently working with 10-15 youth on an Environmental Leadership Team program (details, pg. 7).

New York Aquarium

In New York, the application of wetland regulations has increased, although the general public remains relatively unaware of the laws or the reasons for protecting these areas. To remedy this situation, the New York Aquarium, in partnership with New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has applied to the EPA to take their Tidal Wetlands class on the road. By combining the educational resources of the city's Wildlife Conservation Society (of which the aquarium is a partner) with the technical expertise of the DEC and the EPA's educational material, citizens can learn the value of their local environment, how to protect it, and how to keep their activities within conservation laws.

Coastal America would like to wish a fond farewell and happy retirement to Ellie Fries, Director of Education at the Aquarium. Ellie's commitment to creating successful partnership in education, within and between institutions, was right in step with Coastal America's guiding principles.

National Aquarium in Baltimore

The National Aquarium spent much of this quarter planning and hosting the award ceremony for the Fort McHenry Wetland Restoration Team's Partnership Award on November 9, 2000. The Aquarium played a pivotal role in mobilizing the team in its effort to restore the wetland habitat and enhance environmental education and outreach (details, pg. 2). In addition, the Aquarium's Conservation Department is working with the Education Department on a field day



Bill Hubbard, USACE and NERIT Chair, and Billy Spitzer, New England Aquarium, Listen as students give vibrant presentations at the Conference.

curriculum to be used at the Ft. McHenry site. It will be targeted to fourth and fifth graders and initially used by Francis Scott Key Elementary School, which was dedicated as the Aquarium's "adopt a school" this year.

South Carolina Aquarium

South Carolina Aquarium will be the 14th CELC in the network. Rhet Wilson, the Coastal America liaison to the aquarium, provided the following comments on the significance of the CELC designation: "As a CELC, the Aquarium plans to implement a business planning approach to long-term sustainability of efforts with the federal agency partners. Nearly every federal agency on the SERIT has a presence in South Carolina, especially in the Charleston area. This will be conducive to garnering local team support for CELC projects. Through the Coastal America partnership the South Carolina Aquarium will be able to sustain and grow its school and public conservation education programs, using technology and research from some of the foremost sources in the nation."

IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame

The IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum hosted two Girl Scout overnight programs this fall. One hundred and twenty Brownies and Juniors attended 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 how well the program was geared towards scouting and commented that "the girls had fun and learned a lot about their environment."

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab joins the Coastal America network as the 13th CELC (details, pg. 5). John Dindb, the Coastal America liaison to DISL, was asked to comment on the significance of the designation: "The opportunity afforded by being designated a Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center allows DISL to offer school groups and the general public more opportunities to learn about coastal resources and habitats around the coun-

try. The partnerships established with the federal agencies will provide a basis for exchange of a multitude of educational materials. One of the strengths that DISL

brings to the CELC network is the ability to display and develop curricula based on state-of-the-art research that is being conducted in the onsite laboratory."



Jay Wells, USACE, leads one of six special sessions at the Seattle Student Ocean Conference.

SpotLight: Youth Leadership

With the support of the Lucent Youth Science Initiative and The Boston Foundation, the New England Aquarium has developed an Environmental Leadership Team for 10-15 Boston high school students. The program goals are: to develop environmental leadership among Boston youth; to increase awareness and interest in environmental science and careers; to promote long-term involvement in Aquarium science programs; and to develop a model for other aquariums, zoos, and science centers. Adult mentors/advisors will include an Aquarium staff facilitator; a teacher advisor from the Boston Public Schools; and an environmental science advisor from Coastal America, as well as a consortium of federal agencies involved in coastal environmental issues. The program will be evaluated as part of a long-term study assessing the impact that education, career attainment, scientific knowledge, and positive social outcomes have on youth.

Beginning in the Fall 2000, the teens will participate in weekly 2-hour workshops focusing on leadership skills (teamwork, negotiation, and conflict management) and on team-based environmental problem-solving (in sessions led by technical experts). In the spring of 2001, the teens will apply these skills in environmental action projects. Environmental and technical professionals are a key component of this program. The opportunity to work and learn with professionals, many of whom will be Coastal America federal partners, provides the teens with valuable first-hand insight into current issues; environmental science methods and technology; the intricacies of working with numerous stakeholders; and an understanding of the wide variety of careers related to the environment.

Hatfield Marine Science Center

The Hatfield Marine Science Center is developing an exhibit with the Oregon Sea Grant about invasive species, how they are transported, and what impact they have on marine ecosystems. The CELC network is discussing plans with the Science Center to possibly use their exhibit as a springboard to develop a traveling exhibit about marine invasive species, with the hopes of raising national awareness about this growing threat. Representatives from the Marine Science Center participated in the AK and NW regional workshop in October.

The Seattle Aquarium

The Seattle Aquarium hosted the first-ever Student Ocean Conference on November 6-7th (details, pg. 4). The Aquarium continues their work to upgrade their marine mammal viewing area. This project is receiving generous support from their Coastal America partners at the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. In addition, representatives from the Seattle Aquarium attended the AK and NW regional workshop in October.

Alaska SeaLife Center

Kenai Fjords National Park and Katmai National Park partnered with the Alaska SeaLife Center on a National Resources Challenge Learning Center Proposal and was awarded funding for the project. The Learning Center funds will pay in part for retrofitting an unfinished area of the SeaLife Center into useable public program space. The funds will also support cooperative research and education projects between the National Park Service and the Alaska SeaLife Center. In addition, the SeaLife Center hosted the Alaska and Northwest Regional Workshop October 9-11, 2000 (details, pg. 8).

CELC WORKSHOPS

Alaska and Northwest Regional CELC Workshop

The Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, AK hosted the second annual learning center workshop for the northwest region on October 9-11, 2000. Participants included representatives from the SeaLife Center, the Seattle Aquarium, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, State of Alaska, World Wildlife Fund, University of Alaska, USACE, NPS, NMFS, BLM, USFS, NRCS and USFWS.

The program began with a demonstration by the Susitna Council Girl Scouts on their Rehabilitation Station program, which was designed to educate participants about the fragility and importance of coastal resources. Activities include responding to a mock oil spill, assessing the benefits of monitoring rehabilitated marine mammals that have been released, creating a "web-of-life," writing poetry, role-playing funding and fundraising aspects of marine education, and exploring career opportunities in marine sciences and resource management.

off the coast of Oregon with NOAA; and the Seattle Aquarium's enhancement of the sea otter and marine mammal exhibit with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Each of the federal agency representatives also provided an overview of programs or educational materials available to the CELCs. The Alaska SeaLife Center also hosted a behind the scenes tour of their marine mammal rehabilitation and research facilities. The session closed with a discussion of how the AK and NW teams are restructuring to create stronger collaborative efforts with their CELCs. New priorities are the Alaska SeaLife Center's development of a Bering Sea exhibit, the Hatfield Marine Science Center's development of an exhibit on Marine Invasive Species, and the Seattle Aquarium's interest in working with other learning centers to transfer their successful Beach Naturalist Program and bilingual education programs.

Each of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers provided an overview of their partnership projects or activities. Highlights included the Alaska SeaLife Center's Chiswell Island Remote Video Observation Project on Steller Sea Lions with the USCG, NMFS, Alaska Fish and Game and the NFWF; the Hatfield Marine Science Center's New Millennium Observatory project of the Axial Volcano

CELC Contacts

ALASKA SEALIFE CENTER

Amy Haddow 907 224-6300

DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB

John Dindo 334 861-2141

THE FLORIDA AQUARIUM

Becky Clayton 813 273-4000

HATFIELD MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

Vicki Osis 541 867-0257

IGFA FISHING HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Paul Yourst 954 927-2628

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

Rita Bell 831 648-4800

MYSTIC AQUARIUM

Jim Stone 860 572-5955

NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE

Valerie Chase 410 576-3800

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Billy Spitzer 617 973-5200

NEW YORK AQUARIUM

Merryl Kafka 718 265-3400

SEATTLE AQUARIUM

Terry Roche 206 386-4300

SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM

Rhet Wilson 843 720-1990

TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM

Tara Schultz 361 881-1200

WAIKIKI AQUARIUM

Carol Hopper 808 923-9741



Workshop members participate in the Girl Scout's Rehabilitation Center program, developed with support from the ASLC and several federal agencies.

CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

Northeast Utilities Hosts 2nd CT CWRP Event

Northeast Utilities (NU) hosted a second Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership kick-off event in Connecticut on October 31, 2000. The Senior Vice President of NU, Cheryl Grise, opened the morning meeting that included remarks by Jane Stahl, Deputy Commissioner for the CT Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP), Mindy Lubber, Regional Administrator for the EPA, and

Chief of Staff for CT Congressional Representatives Nancy Johnson and John Larson. Additional remarks were provided by Tim Keeney, Director of NU's Environmental Services and Ron Rozsa, CT DEP. Over 100 people were in attendance, including representatives from the National Association of Manufacturers, the national sponsor of the CWRP. At the conclusion of the event, Boehringer Ingelheim was presented with a certificate of appreciation for their con-

tribution to the CT CWRP. A "big check" was also presented to the Connecticut River Watershed Council for the Ed Bills Pond river restoration project, the first CWRP project in the state.

National Advisory Council Inaugural Meeting

The first meeting of the CWRP National Advisory Council was held in the offices of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) on November 1st. The Council is to be composed of 6 corporate members, 2 scientific/technical members, and 2 members from non-profit organizations. Members of the Council currently include Gillette, Duke Energy, Foxboro Company, ENSR, Battelle, Ducks Unlimited, and Restore America's Estuaries. There are three more corporate openings available on the Council. The Gillette Company serves as the Chair of the Council. Duke Energy was appointed the Vice Chair and Secretary. The NAM agreed to continue as the National Sponsor, responsible for information dissemination and recruitment. Coastal America will continue to serve as technical advisors. Final comments were heard on the CWRP bylaws and prospectus.



Tim Keeney, NU and Monica Roll, Duracell, present members of the CT Watershed Council funds for the first Connecticut CWRP restoration project.

New Face

Paul Sheehy joins the Coastal America office for three months as an Executive Potential Program Fellow from NIH. He will be assisting SIAC with developing measures of success for the CWRP and increasing collaborations between SIAC and the CELCs.

WHAT'S THIS?

It's a new year, and a new format for the Coastal America newsletter. We often hear feedback at the national office that folks want to know details about other regions' projects. Many of our Regional chairs and Learning Centers have responded by providing detailed information about their region or center. There are so many quality Coastal America projects around the country that we needed to expand the newsletter to fit them all in! You might also notice a Spotlight in the CELC section - we would like to showcase a Learning Center or Regional project in each newsletter, to facilitate the sharing of ideas. Please let us know what you think of the new format - we hope you find it useful and enjoyable. Happy 2001 to all our partners - may it be another great year for coastal conservation, restoration, and partnerships.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Northeast

The NERIT has continued to coordinate numerous projects in the planning, design and construction phases, and several of their projects are receiving private industry support through the Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership (CWRP). Notably, the CWRP is working with EPA and NRCS on the design and permit process of the Ballard Street Salt Marsh Restoration in Saugus, MA. Support for the CWRP is being organized in each state. NERIT representatives presented overviews of Coastal America activities to industry representatives around the region: pulp/paper and construction associations in Maine, the Business and Industry Association in New Hampshire, and a major workshop in Connecticut. Additionally, the RI CWRP held an organizational meeting with NERIT, RIDEM, RICRMC, and industry representatives.

Several initiatives were undertaken in support of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers this quarter. The 2nd Student Ocean Summit was held at the New England Aquarium with USACE and Coast Guard experts participating as breakout group facilitators (details, pg. 4). The Aquarium also began an Environmental Leadership Program in which students interact with various environmental leaders in the region, including representatives from some of Coastal America's partner agencies (details, pg. 7). Plans for another "Explore our Coasts" weekend with the Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration are underway, as are discussions of federal agency support for stranded marine mammals and turtles.

In November the Massachusetts EOEFA Office of Wetlands Restoration and the MA CWRP received the Coastal America national partnership award and letter of congratulations from the vice-president. During that ceremony, Secretary Bob Durand of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs gave the

Coastal America partnership an award of appreciation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for their support to the state's wetlands restoration program (details, pg 3.).

Mid-Atlantic

The October meeting of the MARIT was postponed due to a concurrent technical symposium, "Evaluating Estuarine Habitat in the NY/NJ Harbor" at EPA headquarters in New York City. The symposium was co-sponsored by the USACE, the EPA/HEP, NMFS, and the NPS. The symposium was held in an effort to bring together scientists currently working in estuaries, federal, state, and local agency regulators, environmental activists and environmental consultants to present and discuss important issues in urban estuarine habitat evaluation. Representatives from the MARIT and the New York Aquarium attended the event. In addition, the Fort McHenry Wetland Restoration Team received the 2000 Coastal America Partnership Award (details, pg. 2). The team is working to arrange an annual co-meeting between MARIT and the Mid-Atlantic Federal Partners for the Environment (MAFPE). The reason for this effort is to develop MAFPE as the regional principals group for MARIT, and in doing so provide a policy review group and stronger attendance at meetings by the MARIT partners.

Southeast

The SERIT held their quarterly meeting on December 12th in Atlanta, Georgia. This meeting focused on 1) planning the designation ceremony of the South Carolina Aquarium as the 14th CELC in the network; 2) establishing the CWRP in North Carolina; and 3) refining the growing list of candidate Coastal America projects in the Southeast. A representative from Ducks Unlimited, Inc., a national CWRP sponsor, attended the meeting, and two

officials from the state of North Carolina participated by conference call. These groups will meet in late January or February 2001 to develop a strategy to establish the CWRP in North Carolina. The group plans to hold a CWRP kick-off event in North Carolina in the late Spring or early Summer of 2001.

Early in the quarter the Rains Mill Dam Removal Team, NC, received the 2000 Coastal America Partnership award (details, pg. 2).

The CELC designation ceremony for the South Carolina Aquarium is scheduled for February 5, 2001, in Charleston, South Carolina. Members of the SERIT are working closely with the Aquarium staff and the Coastal America Office to plan the event.

Regional Chairs

NORTHEAST

Bill Hubbard 978 318-8552
Bob Wengrzynek 207 990-9100

MID-ATLANTIC

John Wright 718 491-8715
Mario DelVacario 212 637-3781

SOUTHEAST

Dennis Barnett 404 562-5225

GULF OF MEXICO

Robert Bosenberg 504 862-2522
Bryn Griffith 228 688-1172

SOUTHWEST

Peter Seligman 619 553-5403

PACIFIC ISLANDS

John Naughton 808-973-2935
John Emmerson 808-438-6968

NORTHWEST

Jim Reese 503 808-3862

ALASKA

Jeanne Hanson 907 271-3029
Guy McConnell 907 753-2614

GREAT LAKES

Gene Fleming 312 353-6320

Gulf of Mexico

The GMP/GWRIT will hold their next meeting on February 13-14th in Pensacola, FL. They have been working on the designation of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab as Coastal America's 13th CELC. The team received 75 project proposals for funding in 2001, including some CELC projects. The Breton Island project and partnership award recognition seems to have given a jumpstart to using the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program for projects in Gulf of Mexico region. A handful of the proposals are being forwarded to the appropriate IRT contacts. In addition, the GWRIT is working to bring the Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership into their region and recently received a generous donation from Duke Energy for a restoration project. The Gulf of Mexico Comprehensive Meeting will be held on May 30-31st and will include a track for the CELCs. The team is also gearing up to host the Coastal America Retreat, scheduled for May in New Orleans.

Southwest

The SWRIT participated in the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) Symposium on October 18-19th in San Diego. The WRP is a partnership of State, Federal and local officials working with business and community organizations to develop and implement a regional strategy for wetland restoration and acquisition in Southern California. The purpose of the symposium was to frame a regional strategy for wetlands recovery in Southern California and to discuss the five-year implementation plan which provides for 32 restoration and acquisition projects for 2000-2001. The SWRIT Chair participated in a panel entitled "Making Common Cause-Relating Other Regional Efforts to Wetland Recovery" and discussed improved coordination and support of the WRP objectives through the Coastal America partnership. The SWRIT recently endorsed all 32 WRP projects from the Tijuana Estuary to Santa Barbara Wetlands and will work in the future to broaden support from the Coastal America partner agencies to the WRP projects.

Northwest

Members from the NWRIT participated in the Seattle Aquarium Student Ocean conference, as planners and field trip leaders (details, pg. 4). The team also sent representatives to Alaska to participate in the AK and NW Regional CELC workshop.

Representatives from DOE, NOAA, and the Navy met in December to draft criteria for NW regional education and restoration projects. The criteria will provide guidance to the NWRIT for selecting education and restoration projects proposed for Coastal America support. The criteria will be part of an information package circulated by the team, and it is hoped that the entire package will be adopted at the March NWRIT meeting following a 2-month review by NWRIT members.

The NWRIT is working with the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) to create a wetland outside the Science Center for use as a demonstration site for educational programs and exhibits. The wetlands will be developed from a dredged material disposal site. A team composed of the NWRIT, state agencies, local government, port authorities, tribes, and watershed councils are working on the restoration project. Preliminary assessment for the project was completed by Portland District Corps of Engineers as a Planning Assistance to States project. The project was determined to be feasible and eligible to proceed to the next stage of planning. Certain phases of the project require cost sharing, and the HMSC and the EPA agreed to contribute funding and expertise.

Alaska

The AKRIT participated in the Alaska and Northwest Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center regional workshop on October 9-11, 2000 (details, pg. 8). The team is busy preparing for the Alaska Forum on the Environment in Anchorage, February 5-9, 2001. There will be presentations at the forum regarding Coastal America's collaboration with the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, the military Innovative Readiness Training, and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. The team also finalized a template project data sheet for Coastal America projects in the region. A regional Principals and an AKRIT meeting will be held in conjunction with the Forum on February 9th.

Great Lakes

Federal agencies in the Great Lakes region, including the USACE, USEPA, USFWS, USGS, and USCG participated in a series of roundtable discussions with members of the International Joint Commission, the Great Lakes fishery Commission, the Great Lakes fishery agencies and other interests. 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 the President signed into law in December. Implementation of Section 506 will involve a partnership effort among the various federal agencies, and international and interstate fishery agencies to develop a fishery management plan. In addition, implementation of Section 506 will authorize the USACE to plan, design, construct, and evaluate projects supporting the restoration of the Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem.



UPCOMING EVENTS - SPRING 2001

January 16	Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Designation Ceremony, Dauphin Island, AL
January 18	Little Falls Fishway, Partnership Award Ceremony, Baltimore, MD
February 5	South Carolina Aquarium, Designation Ceremony, Charleston, SC
February 5-9	Alaska Forum on the Environment, Anchorage, AK
February 8	PIRIT meeting, Waikiki Aquarium, HI
February 13-14	GMP/GMRIT Meeting, Pensacola, FL
February 27-28	Upper Mississippi Natural Leaders Group, St. Paul, MN
February 28	SWRIT Meeting
March	NWRIT meeting, Portland, OR
March 13	SERIT meeting
March 14	STAC Workshop on Assessment Measures in Aquatic Habitat Restoration
March 15	CWRP National Advisory Council Meeting, Washington, DC
April 24	Florida Aquarium Student Ocean Conference
Spring	ANNUAL COASTAL AMERICA RETREAT
May 30-31	GMP/GMRIT Comprehensive Meeting & GM/SE Regional CELC Workshop
July 15-19	CZ01, Cleveland, Ohio; Coastal America Workshop July 16 th
July 17-21	NMEA Conference and National CELC Meeting, Victoria, BC

Coastal America is a partnership among federal, state and local governments and private alliances to address environmental problems along our nation's coasts. The federal partners are: Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and The Executive Office of the President.



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

300 7th Street, SW
REPORTERS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20024

Coastal America Office

Virginia K. Tipple, Director

Art Bryant, Watershed Coordinator

Betsy Salter, Education/Outreach Coordinator

Col. George W. Schlossnagle, Military Liaison

Patmarie S. Nedelka, Policy Coordinator

William Nichols, Project Coordinator

Julianna Wynan, Editor and Outreach Specialist

Wanda Brown, Secretary

Telephone: 202 401-9928 • Fax: 202 401-9821

<http://www.coastalamerica.gov>