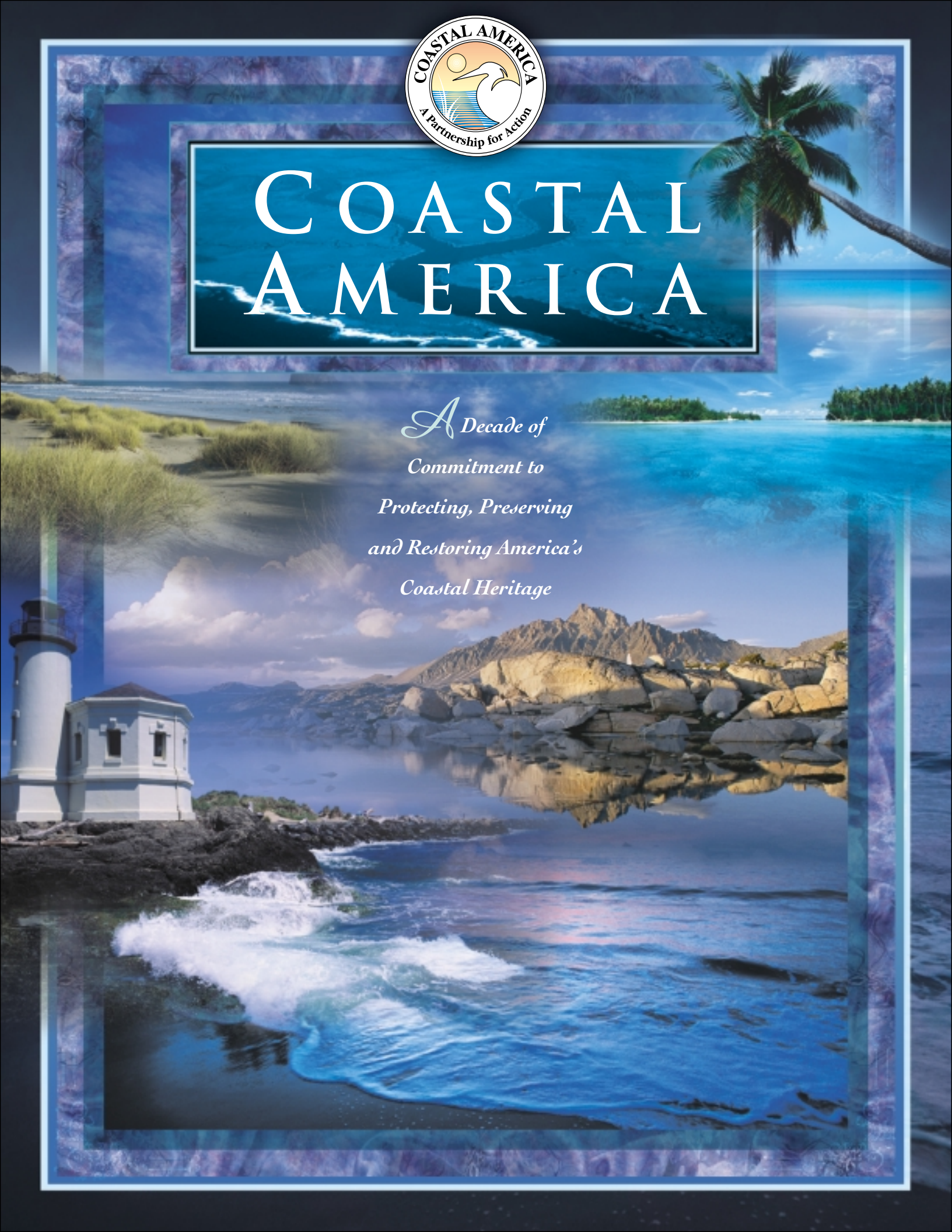




# COASTAL AMERICA

*A Decade of  
Commitment to  
Protecting, Preserving  
and Restoring America's  
Coastal Heritage*







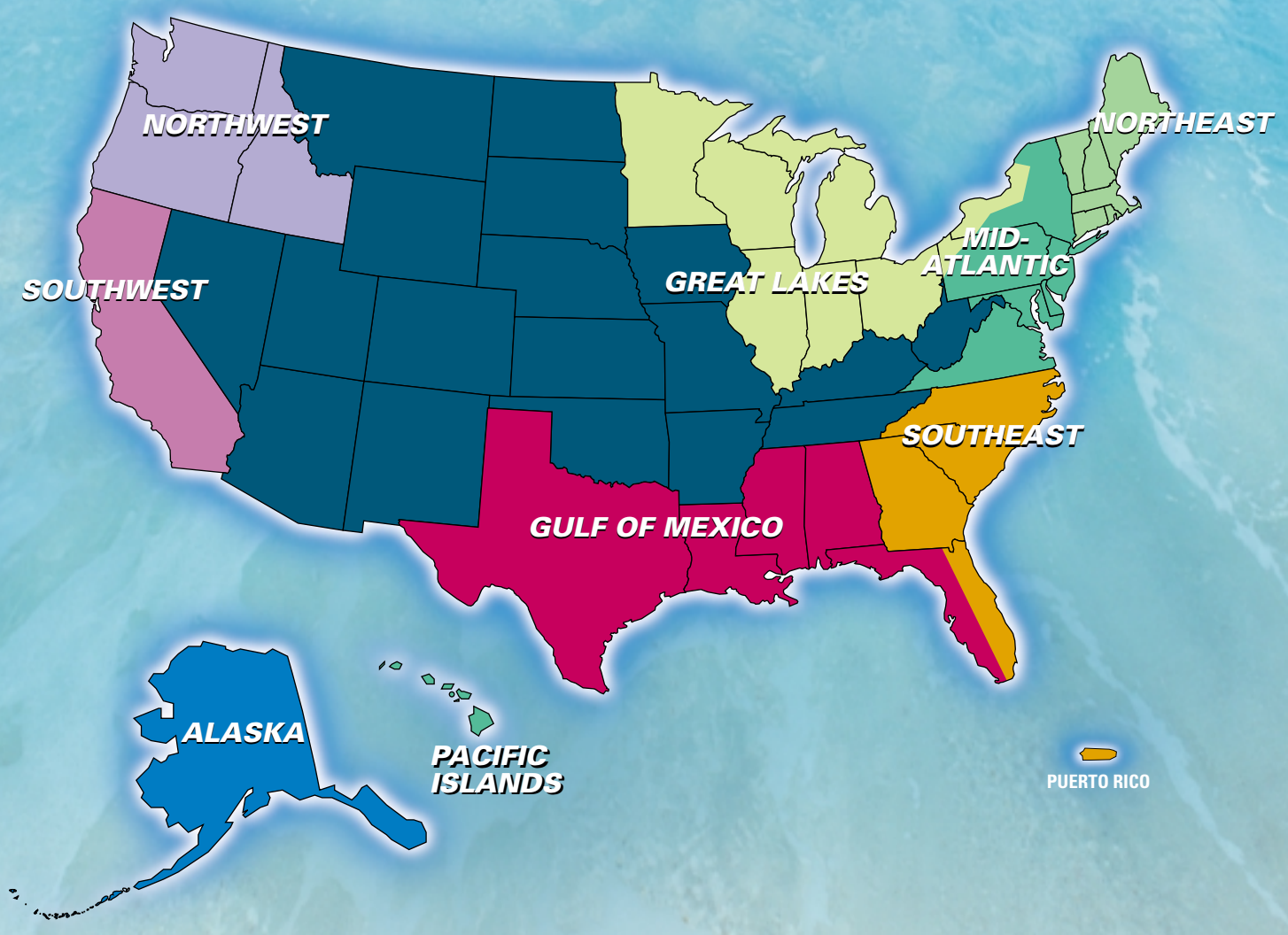
# COASTAL AMERICA

*A Decade of Commitment to Protecting, Preserving  
and Restoring America's Coastal Heritage*

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# COASTAL AMERICA REGIONS



*Protecting, Preserving and Restoring America's Coastal Heritage*

# COASTAL AMERICA

## WHAT IS IT?

In 1991, then-President George Bush launched the Coastal America partnership process as a way "to ensure that we use – and use efficiently – all of the tools that are available to federal agencies, to state and local governments, and to private citizens in order to solve coastal problems." He called it a way to forge "a strong, long-term alliance for coastal stewardship."

More recently, former Vice President Al Gore endorsed Coastal America as a force "for building a government that works better and costs less."

In 2001, at the beginning of its second decade, the Coastal America partnership has a solid track record. Its success stories demonstrate that it has delivered on that founding promise.

Coastal America isn't an agency. It isn't a program. It's a virtual organization, a way of doing business.

The Coastal America partnership was formalized in 1992 with a Memorandum of Understanding signed by nine sub-cabinet level agency representatives of the federal government. They committed their agencies to work together and integrate their

Coastal America isn't an agency. It isn't a program. It's a virtual organization, a way of doing business.

efforts with state, local, and non-governmental activities. With a goal of better management of coastal resources, they pledged to coordinate their statutory responsibilities and combine their resources and expertise.

**WHY WE CARE**

Coastal waters are among nature's most productive ecosystems, providing essential habitat and food for a variety of fish, shellfish, birds and other wildlife. Over 70 percent of our nation's most valuable commercial fisheries depend on coastal environments. Human life also relies heavily on the coasts. Increasing population and human use exact a heavy price. They profoundly affect the integrity of coastal ecosystems and their economic value.



Team members celebrate the restoration of Salt Bayou, TX

**COASTAL AMERICA'S  
FEDERAL PARTNERS**

- Executive Office of the President
- 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

Created because federal agencies found it difficult to address complex coastal issues independently, the partnership can now boast of 12 federal departments (Appendix A), 250 state and local governments, and over 300 private businesses and organizations working together on more than 500 projects in 26 states, two territories and the District of Columbia. The result of these efforts has been to maximize the benefits – both environmental and economic – and to minimize the costs – both environmental and economic – of addressing complex coastal problems. The Coastal America process helps identify areas of overlapping mandates, authorities, policies and objectives. It encourages cooperation in those overlapping areas. The operating premise is straightforward: if one agency identifies a project that needs group assistance, all agencies review their own mandates for applicable programs. Agencies as seemingly disparate as the United States Air Force and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service find common ground.

**THE COASTAL PAYOFF**

**T**he Penobscot Indian Nation blessed a Coastal America project to remove three dams in Maine. This project reopened the culturally important Soudabscook Stream, known as the "River of Many Sea Fishes," to anadromous fish migration. Funding and technical assistance from federal groups, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and from Duke Energy/Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, made the project possible. As a result, shad, alewife, salmon, trout and striped bass have returned. The potential for flooding and water damage to state roads has been reduced. Use of the river

**TO LEARN MORE**

...about the partnership, signatories, and legal framework, see Appendix B

for canoeing and kayaking has been improved. Since the removal of these dams, fish passage has been reestablished in more than a dozen other rivers in the state.

**I**n 1993 military personnel from the U.S. Naval Air Station, Key West, assisted the State of Florida in taking aerial photographs of seagrass beds in John Pennekamp State Park. Navy divers then marked the location of the sensitive areas. With this assistance from the military, as well as from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of the Interior, U.S. Coast Guard and other partners, the state was able to alleviate the destruction of the fragile seagrass by placing buoys marking the location of the beds. And Navy divers received valuable training while providing an environmental benefit.

Without encroaching upon any agency's individual authority, the Coastal America process encourages collaboration. United States Senator Robert Smith (NH) recognized the value of this approach when he noted "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 to conservation, and, as Chairman of the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, I am proud to recognize their efforts and work with them to ensure that the message of environmental stewardship is heard and embraced."



Penobscot tribal elder blesses restored river; ME

# A PARTNER'S PERSPECTIVE



*Air Force Reserves removed the East Machias Dam as a training exercise; ME*

The federal agencies benefit from the partnership process. It enables them to achieve their agency goals and objectives, in a cost-effective and efficient manner, while providing important environmental benefits. For example, the Department of Defense and its components have been involved in the Coastal America process from the beginning. The Departments of Army, Navy and Air Force were founding partners. Over the years, all of the military services have participated in Coastal America projects on and off base as part of mission requirements and community outreach. With the establishment of the Innovative Readiness Training Program in 1997, military units are now encouraged to seek training opportunities while providing incidental benefit to the community - and the environment.

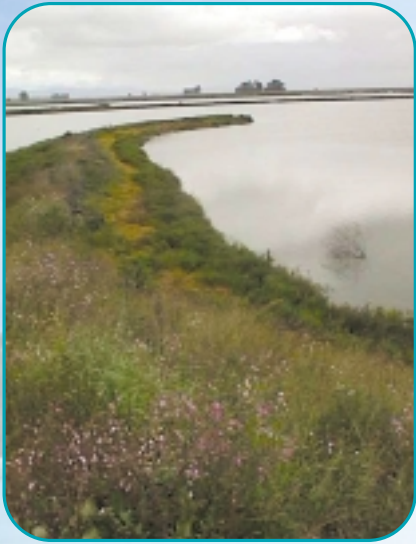
## THE COASTAL PAYOFF

*In Maine, the 75-year-old East Machias Dam had outlived its usefulness in supplying electric power. It was a safety hazard and an obstruction to fish migration. In 1999, the Air Force, the town of East Machias, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other Coastal America partners cooperated in a Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training project to remove the dam and power plant. As a result, Air Force Reserve engineers gained real-life experience in demolition. At the same time, the removal helped to reopen more than 100 miles of habitat to migrating anadromous fish. Fisheries improved. Town safety was enhanced.*

*Efforts to restore the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge in Rhode Island were initiated in 1996. The abandoned Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field covered nearly 80 acres of rare coastal sandplain habitat in the Refuge. Restoration of the area could not proceed without removal of aging asphalt runways. Working as part of a Coastal America team, Army Reserve soldiers and other partners removed more than half of the runway in two weeks time. As a result, major ecological improvements were made at the Refuge.*

## TO LEARN MORE

*...about the Department of Defense involvement and the Innovative Readiness Training program, see Appendix A and <http://raweb.osd.mil/initiatives/irt.htm>*



Sonoma Baylands; CA

Thinking strategically, one can easily see that collaboration leads to success in achieving common goals and mutual benefits. Projects are implemented more cost effectively and more quickly than if each agency works alone. The collaborative process brokers skills and leverages funding to enhance problem solving.

The principles of sustainable development and ecosystem planning guide the Coastal America process. Project design pays close attention to both the environmental and the economic health of a region.



**THE COASTAL PAYOFF**

The construction and maintenance of highways, roads, bridges and railways is vital to the economy of the northeast corridor. But such work often destroys natural tidal flow in marshes dissected by ribbons of transportation. In Connecticut, Amtrak and the state's transportation and environmental protection agencies joined with Coastal America partners to restore tidal flow and revive wetlands along transportation corridors. As a result, environmental errors of the past were cor-

rected as the transportation infrastructure was rebuilt.

Dredged material from the Petaluma River and Oakland Harbor was used to restore 348 acres of wetlands in the Sonoma Baylands. The Port of Oakland and the California Coastal Conservancy teamed up with Coastal America partners to make this innovative project a success. The teamwork allowed the deepening of ship channels and increased access to ports. It improved coastal habitats. And it illustrated that economic and ecologic benefits often overlap.



As was originally envisioned, the Coastal America process also reaches outside of federal, state and local governments to involve major corpora-

tions, non-governmental organizations and private citizens. This outreach has drawn in volunteer workers, expanded public knowledge of coastal challenges and increased funds available for work. In some cases, non-federal funds have accounted for as much as 95 per cent of the dollars spent on a project.

Project design pays close attention to both the environmental and the economic health of a region.



A local project team removes aquatic invasive species; AK



According to James Pipkin, counselor to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior during the late 1990's, the Coastal America process represents a different approach to federal projects. "It provides a forum under which agencies discuss their plans and programs in a context that is not crisis driven. It also brings together a much broader set of players than we normally think of in an environmental context." Innovative and productive concepts are born when this "broad set of players" gathers for retreats and site visits.

The 1999 annual retreat discussions resulted in the establishment of a national Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. This partnership is the first national initiative to leverage public funds with private funds and streamlined know-how from corporate America to restore valuable wetlands.



One of the most important contributions of the Coastal America process is a heightened exchange of scientific information, subject knowledge, techniques, methods, equipment and experiences among the partners. The method of knowledge and technology transfer can be as informal as having agencies with expertise work hand-in-hand with partners lacking that expertise. But the transfer also has been formalized in several ways.

In 1998, the Coastal America partners created a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee specifically to provide expertise in new and underutilized technologies. The committee is a link to the research, development and

education activities of partner agencies. It strengthens and eases the flow of appropriate technology across federal agencies and to those who need it at the regional and local levels.

In 1996, Coastal America formalized the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center network, which is comprised of a number of the nation's premier aquaria and marine learning institutions. Building on their role as public education facilities, the Learning Centers use the resources of the partnership to improve the contributions to their communities. With the combined resources, Learning Centers are able to increase public awareness about marine issues and implement community-based restoration projects.



**THE COASTAL PAYOFF**

In 1995 a workgroup discussed the need to improve public awareness of coastal and marine issues. The result was a collaboration between the federal agency partners and aquaria around the country. Today, the Coastal America partners and 14 aquaria or other marine institutions have become a network of Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers where millions of people see more, do more, and learn more about the marine environment.

**THE COASTAL PAYOFF**

With a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and technical assistance from the Boston Museum of Science, the New England Aquarium developed a Sabbatical Program for regional K-12 teachers. Each year, 21 teachers spend a week in Boston, participating in state-of-the-art, hands-on environmental programs. Aquarium and federal agency staff work together to lead activities including field and laboratory work, and a day aboard an Environmental Protection Agency research vessel. The teachers gain knowledge and skills from experts in the environmental field, and bring new enthusiasm and resources directly back to their schools. The program has been so successful that Coastal America is working to expand it to other Learning Centers around the country.



Sharing of ideas and expertise is a key component of the partnership; RI



The innovative approaches that are key to the Coastal America process are recognized by a series of awards. The Coastal America Partnership Awards Program was launched in 1997. These awards recognize innovative and unique efforts which could only be achieved through the collaboration of federal, state, local and non-governmental groups. To date, teams from more than 25 projects have been honored. In 1998, a Special Recognition Award was added to specifically honor non-governmental organizations for significant contributions to the restoration and protection of the coastal environment. Six corporations and organizations have been honored. The newest award, the John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award, was established in 1999. It recognizes the late Senator Chafee for his lifetime commitment to restoration and protection of the coastal environment. This award is intended to honor those who demonstrate a similar long-term commitment to our coasts.

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**These awards recognize  
innovative and unique efforts  
which could only be achieved  
through the collaboration of  
federal, state, local and non-  
governmental groups.**

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As evidence of the enthusiasm private groups and corporations have for the Coastal American process, a group of nationally recognized marine scientists and managers organized the Coastal America Foundation. The foundation provides a tax-deductible entity to receive public and corporate contributions to be used to support local community cost sharing in restoration and protection projects. By matching federal money through Coastal America projects, the foundation can assure contributors they are making an investment in regionally important and nationally significant work. Terry D. Garcia, a member of the foundation's board of trustees and senior vice president of the National Geographic Society, assures donors that "Coastal America projects are making a tangible improvement in the nation's environment."

**TO LEARN MORE**

*...about awards recipients,  
see Appendix C*

**TO LEARN MORE**

*...about the Coastal America  
Foundation, see  
[www.awod.com/gallery/probono/camfnd/](http://www.awod.com/gallery/probono/camfnd/)*



# COASTAL AMERICA

## HOW IT WORKS

**T**he strategy is a simple one: Make the search for program and funding linkages part of the mindset of every day business. Where there are common goals, join forces. The partnership demonstrates that when federal, state, local and non-governmental entities do that, they accomplish what no organization could undertake alone.

In the early 1990's Lajuana Wilcher, assistant administrator for water at the

Environmental Protection Agency, described the Coastal America partnership as "proving that two heads are better than one, especially when they represent different perspectives but share a common goal...improving America's coasts."

There is a long history of close working relationships in some parts of the United States. Elsewhere, however, the Coastal America process is the only net that draws together the multitude of

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The strategy is a simple one: where there are common goals, join forces.

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A broad set of players contribute to the Coastal America partnership; Annual Conference, CA

federal and non-federal players.

Supported by thousands of volunteers and hundreds of non-governmental organizations, the key players in this process are:

- The Principals Group
- A National Implementation Team
- The Coastal America office
- Nine Regional Implementation Teams
- Local project teams

**THE PRINCIPALS GROUP** is a committee of Under or Assistant Secretaries from the partner federal agencies. This group establishes overall program direction and sets policy for collaboration.

**THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM** is a larger group of senior managers from the partner federal agencies. They give day-to-day direction to the Coastal America coordinating office, represent the partners in public, and make the collaboration a reality.

**THE COASTAL AMERICA OFFICE** is the hub of the partnership wheel. It handles the details that make collaboration happen. It is also a catalyst for national products, multi-regional projects, education and training.

**THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION**

**TEAMS** are groups of key managers in the field. They represent the federal partners in each of nine coastal regions. As the primary operating units for interagency consultation and action, they identify regional issues, develop strategies, and select and prioritize projects. They are advocates for the projects with their Washington counterparts. They communicate, build relationships, synthesize information and look for the barriers that will prevent collaboration.

**PROJECT TEAMS** are the local working groups comprised of federal, state, and local organizations. They provide a link with the Regional Teams and the day-to-day leadership for involved agencies and volunteers. They are responsible for getting the work done.

## THE COASTAL PAYOFF

*In Texas, the Gulf of Mexico RIT organized a Project Team that ultimately involved 38 private businesses, three conservation and special interest groups, four scout troops, five state agencies and seven federal agencies to work on shoreline protection. The project brought more than \$2.4 million worth of in-kind services for improvements at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.*

*In the early 1990's, Coastal America partners joined together in an effort to spot and track the northern right whale during its annual calving season off the coasts of Georgia and Northern Florida. Key players include NOAA, the Navy, Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, state resource agencies, the New England Aquarium and other partners. As part of this ongoing project, over flights of the area are conducted throughout the calving season. In addition, transiting ships report whale sightings to an Early Warning System, and the information is immediately transmitted to mariners in the area. As a result, ship captains can maintain efficient speeds into and out of ports with the confidence that they can avoid collisions with whales. Most significantly, the risk of deaths of the endangered right whale due to ship strikes has been dramatically reduced in this area.*

## TO LEARN MORE

*...about tracking the right whale, see <http://www.rightwhale.noaa.gov>*

The key players have attracted powerful allies for the Coastal America process. Private corporations and many of the nation's aquaria and other marine institutions are enthusiastic participants.

# A CORPORATE PERSPECTIVE

Private corporations participate through the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). The CWRP is a way for environmentally responsible companies to reach out into their communities beyond the boundaries of their own facilities. It is not a substitute for corporate compliance with federal permit requirements.

Led by The Gillette Company, 17 corporations joined the Massachusetts CWRP in its first six months and raised more than \$1 million in cash and in-kind services for coastal projects. Such private funding provides the local match frequently required to bring federal agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers into a project. Before CWRP, a significant portion of the federal funding for wetland restoration went unused because local project sponsors were unable to raise the non-federal share of the cost.

In the spring of 2000, Coastal America expanded the CWRP as a national effort. By the end of its first full year, 27 corporations and 26 non-governmental organizations joined the CWRP, and The National Association of Manufacturers became the national sponsor. The group's goal is to help federal agencies save 100,000 acres of wetlands annually. According to Edward F. DeGraan, president of The Gillette Company, "CWRP works because it is entirely voluntary, with no



Federal, state, and corporate partners collaborate through the CWRP; MA

regulatory mandate." It simply brings groups together "to do the right thing for our environment and economy."

— *Decorative flourish* —

### THE COASTAL PAYOFF

*In April 2000, restoration began on 50 acres of estuarine habitat at Sagamore Marsh on Cape Cod, MA. While the Army Corps of Engineers led the project, more than one-third of the \$2.4 million estimated cost was contributed by the CWRP and the State of Massachusetts. As a result, a site which had been isolated from tidal exchange more than 60 years ago will once more be a salt marsh habitat for recreationally and commercially important fish and wildlife species.*



**NATIONAL CWRP LEADERS**

- The Gillette Company
- Duke Energy
- Battelle
- ENSR
- FMC Corporation
- The Foxboro Company
- Ducks Unlimited
- Restore America's Estuaries
- National Association of Manufacturers  
*(national sponsor)*

**TO LEARN MORE**

...about the CWRP, see  
[www.coastalamerica.gov/text/cwrp.html](http://www.coastalamerica.gov/text/cwrp.html)

# AN EDUCATION PERSPECTIVE



In a single year, Learning Centers expose more than 10 million visitors to coastal areas and their living resources.

Aquaria and marine learning institutions participate in the Coastal America process through the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers. In 1996, the New England Aquarium was designated as the first Learning Center. Since then, 13 more aquaria, science centers, and museums have been given Learning Center designation (Appendix D).

These institutions already had their own powerful resources, expertise, and – most important – a vast audience of enthusiastic visitors. In a single year's time, the 14 Learning Centers expose more than 10 million visitors to the allure and importance of coastal areas and their living resources. That experience is further enhanced by contributions from the Coastal America partners; as Learning Centers the institutions are qualified to receive special resources such as scientific data, project assistance, confiscated endangered species material and ship time aboard

federal research vessels. As Dr. Sylvia Earle, preeminent ocean explorer, noted, "the Learning Centers are powerful antidotes to ignorance."

## THE COASTAL PAYOFF

*The National Aquarium in Baltimore is conducting a tidal wetlands restoration, monitoring and maintenance program at a ten-acre site adjacent to Fort McHenry National Monument. The Aquarium used funding and in-kind services from federal, state, and local agencies, as well as non-profit sources, to sustain the program. More than 400 volunteers from scout groups, youth groups, Baltimore Zoo and Aquarium summer interns, Morgan State University students, and others in the local community contributed to the project.*

### COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

- Alaska SeaLife Center
- Dauphin Island Sea Lab
- The Florida Aquarium
- Hatfield Marine Science Center
- IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Mystic Aquarium & the Institute for Exploration
- National Aquarium in Baltimore
- New England Aquarium
- New York Aquarium
- The Seattle Aquarium
- South Carolina Aquarium
- Texas State Aquarium
- Waikiki Aquarium

# COASTAL AMERICA

## THE PROJECTS

There is no one cause of environmental stress on America's coasts. Environmental issues and problems – like the rivers and streams of a watershed – flow across state lines and defy bureaucratic boundaries. That's why a regional, and inter-governmental, approach is at the heart of the Coastal America process.



Environmental issues and problems – like the rivers and streams of a watershed – flow across state lines and defy bureaucratic boundaries.



*Restoration progress at Cockroach Bay; FL*

The regions all have some similar ecological systems. Each shares in the problems and solutions common to those systems. However, each region also has unique problems that are characteristic of its location. The tundra and arctic coasts of Alaska differ from the tropical coasts of the Pacific Islands.

The highly urbanized coastal areas of the Mid-Atlantic differ from the vast wetlands of the Gulf of Mexico.

### TO LEARN MORE

...about current, proposed and completed projects, see [www.coastalamerica.gov/text/regions/regions.html](http://www.coastalamerica.gov/text/regions/regions.html)

Unlike the piecemeal approach of the past, the Coastal America process empowers teams to identify issues with broad regional significance. The teams then set priorities, develop strategies and coordinate efforts across geographic and political borders.

The original seven regions have become nine, with the formation of a separate Mid-Atlantic Region in 1994 and a separate Pacific Island Region in 1999. Each focuses on site-specific projects that are a part of the broader environmental problems specific to the region. Hundreds of projects have been undertaken. Some are now complete and the regions are reaping the ecological benefit. Dozens more are in the planning stages. The examples used throughout this report demonstrate the diversity of projects and the partnership's ability to produce results.

**THE NORTHEAST REGION**

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

**The Northeast Region**

From the beginning, the Northeast regional team identified habitat restoration, nonpoint source pollution and contaminated sediment as problems worthy of coordinated attention. Of those, restoring salt marshes – particularly marshes that had been cut off from natural tidal flow by infrastructure development – was deemed the single most important effort to be made in New England.

The Northeast team believes that restoring ecological productivity to salt marsh and estuarine habitats is crucial to the long-term viability of the region's coastal ecosystem. The restoration of anadromous fisheries, in particular, is tied closely to state priorities for opening river corridors. In addition to removing impediments, constructing channels or culverts, and conducting baseline inventories, projects have included efforts to halt the spread of *Phragmites australis* and to restore native vegetation.

**THE COASTAL PAYOFF**

The Galilee Bird Sanctuary, on the coast of Rhode Island, was the first of many salt marsh restoration projects undertaken by

Coastal America partners. Begun in 1992, the plan was to restore nearly 130 acres that had been destroyed by disposal of dredged material and construction of transportation facilities. Federal and state agencies, the University of Rhode Island and Ducks Unlimited worked together on the project for nearly two years. The cooperation made it possible to take on the entire marsh area as one project rather than as separate projects by the separate jurisdictions involved. The Federal Highway Administration contributed expertise and funds to road reconstruction efforts. The Army Corps of Engineers developed a computer-based hydrologic model for the project, which can be adapted for use in salt marsh restoration efforts throughout the country. The Corps reestablished marsh elevations and normal tidal flooding by re-excavating natural channels and installing culverts. As a result, more than 125 acres are once again productive salt marsh, intertidal habitat and valuable resting, nesting and feeding ground for Atlantic Flyway birds.

In 1996, four separate federal agencies were working on independent efforts to map eelgrass beds in Narragansett Bay. The U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center was working on detection of submerged vegetation due to its military implications for hiding undersea mines. The Corps was mapping seagrass because of its significance for dredging projects. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency were interested in seagrass for habitat management. The Coastal America process brought the four federal and several state agencies together in an interagency project. Partners used Sonar and Global Positioning Systems to image the bay. Navy divers obtained ground truth, in the form of eelgrass samples and underwater video. Scientists tested the samples and analyzed the video. As a result of the coordinated efforts, maps were provided that benefit both a military purpose and environmental management.



Restoring tidal flow to the Galilee Bird Sanctuary; RI



**THE MID ATLANTIC REGION**

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

**The Mid-Atlantic Region**

The Mid-Atlantic regional team has given high priority to combating impacts of increasing population pressures on the coastal ecosystems. Efforts include working with their regional Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers to raise public awareness of critical coastal issues in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The team has adopted National Estuary Program plans within the region to provide an institutional framework for achieving restoration goals. Their objective is to develop and implement projects that restore or improve the structure, function, and sustainability of Mid-Atlantic coastal ecosystems. In its effort to improve these ecosystems, the team is targeting loss of wetlands and obstructions to fish migration that have caused declines in fish and shellfish populations in the region.

Projects have included restoration of horseshoe crab, hard clam and anadromous fish habitats, removal of migratory impediments, restoration of islands, and protection of submerged aquatic plants and tidal marshes.



*A Mid-Atlantic team constructed an innovative fishway at Little Falls Dam; MD*

**THE COASTAL PAYOFF**

**E**ach Spring an estimated 800,000 to 1.5 million migratory shorebirds pass through the Delaware Bay. They feed on the Bay's horseshoe crab eggs as they make their arduous flight to the Arctic. However, horseshoe crab numbers have severely declined and their breeding habitat is being destroyed by shoreline erosion. This erosion also threatens to damage homes, roads, and other infrastructure. In New Jersey, a Coastal America team is gearing up for two projects to combat this trend. The Army Corps of Engineers, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have formed a partnership to restore beaches in New Jersey's Delaware Bay. More than 130 acres of beach and dune habitat will be restored. Property will be protected, and critical habitat for horseshoe crabs and migratory shorebirds will be enhanced.

**T**he Little Falls Dam stretches 1400 feet across the Potomac River just above Washington, DC. The dam provides water for the Nation's Capital. A fish

ladder that was part of the original construction in 1959 was never successful. Historic spawning and rearing areas for anadromous fish were cut off. In recent years, the continuing decline in fish stocks in the Potomac aroused interest in creating fish passage to the spawning grounds above the dam. A Coastal America project under the leadership of the Army Corps of Engineers, brought together two states and numerous federal agencies to provide access to approximately 10 miles of migratory fish habitat upstream. One quarter of the funding for the project was provided by the State of Maryland. As a result, a notch fishway with three labyrinth weirs to allow passage over the dam was ready for the spring shad run in 2000. More than three million fish are expected to benefit from the fishway annually.

**TO LEARN MORE**

...about the Little Falls fishway project, see  
[http://www.usgs.gov/public/press/public\\_affairs/press\\_releases/pr1268m.html](http://www.usgs.gov/public/press/public_affairs/press_releases/pr1268m.html)

**THE SOUTHEAST REGION**

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

## The Southeast Region

The Southeast regional team has focused on two types of decline in the coastal ecosystem. One is the dramatic decline in aquatic and wetland habitats due to pressures from urban sprawl, especially in coastal areas. The other is the decline of fisheries, partially caused by obstructions to fish passage, such as dams, culverts, and debris.

In its efforts to halt and reverse such decline, the team has undertaken proj-

ects to restore wetlands, seagrass beds and mangroves and to help protect endangered species. It has also worked to remove invasive vegetation and replant areas with native species.

Recently, the team expanded its focus to include habitat improvement and restoration in a broad watershed context across the entire South Atlantic region. This approach addresses the fact that activities in the entire watershed have significant downstream effects on coastal and estuarine areas.



### THE COASTAL PAYOFF

In 1997, the Quaker Neck Dam on the Neuse River in North Carolina became the first dam in the country to be removed solely for environmental purposes. The dam's owner, Carolina Power & Light Company, worked with Coastal America

partners and state agencies to reopen the river – and an incredible 1,000 miles of stream habitat – to the migration of important fish species, such as striped bass and American shad.

During Hurricane Hugo in 1989 most of the coastal mangrove forest on the island of Culebra, Puerto Rico was destroyed. During 1993 and 1994, about 20 acres along 15,000 feet of shoreline were replanted with more than 4,000 red mangrove seedlings. The project involved a large portion of the island population as volunteers and contractors along with Puerto Rico and U.S. federal agencies. As a result, new mangroves stabilize the shoreline and provide protection during storms, improve water quality, provide habitat, improve conditions for adjacent coral reefs, and improve foraging, nesting and roosting conditions for many common and endangered species of fish, sea turtles and shorebirds.



Removing the Quaker Neck Dam opened 1,000 miles of spawning habitat; NC

**THE GULF REGION**

- Florida
- Alabama
- Mississippi
- Louisiana
- Texas

**The Gulf of Mexico Region**

Initially, the Gulf of Mexico regional team had a range of priorities. It planned to target habitat degradation, shoreline erosion, toxic substances, pesticides, nutrient enrichment, alterations to freshwater inflows, and the decline of living resources along the Gulf coast. However, early successes led to adoption of habitat restoration and protection as top priority.

In this region, Coastal America has merged with the existing Gulf of Mexico Program. Using the GMP Management Committee as the Coastal America regional team allows consolidated goal setting and improves the process.

In 1999, the regional team was called on to assist in efforts to recover from Hurricane Georges. The partnership was used to implement restoration and protection plans for bird-nesting colonies that had been all but wiped out as Georges swept into Mobile Bay.



**THE COASTAL PAYOFF**

Tampa Bay had suffered the loss of nearly 80% of its seagrass and 45% of its wetlands. Mining, illegal waste disposal, agricultural activities, and rapid urbanization were the cause of such extensive damage. Cockroach Bay, in the southeast

portion of Tampa Bay, is often considered the "crown jewel" of the area. Here, a Coastal America team of over 15 organizations and 2,000 volunteers banded together to restore approximately 135 acres of wetland habitat. This project, led by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Hillsboro County, is ensuring that more than 500 acres of over-used, over-polluted coastal habitat will eventually be returned to a healthy, functioning ecosystem. The restored habitat now serves as a home for an array of species and shelters the Bay from non-point source pollution.

Problems, as well as agencies, are sometimes combined to produce an environmentally positive result. In Galveston Bay, Texas, changing salinity patterns have led to a decline in oyster production, threatening the two million pound annual harvest. Simultaneously, two major Houston power plants produced 2.2 million tons of fly ash byproduct, more than half of which was sent to landfills at great expense to the companies. Building on several small demonstration projects that had shown good results, Coastal America partners constructed an oyster reef using



Oysters on fly ash pellet; TX

pellets made of fly ash. Houston Lighting & Power (Reliant Energy), the Port of Houston and other non-federal partners provided nearly 40 percent of the funding. Since construction in 1993, the reef has attracted significant oyster spat settlement. It is also expected to increase populations of commercial and sport fish that rely on the oyster reefs. As a result of this project, a costly waste disposal problem was turned into a profit-making venture with positive environmental consequences.



**TO LEARN MORE**

...about the Gulf of Mexico Program, see <http://www.gmpo.gov>



Fly ash byproduct is used to make artificial reefs for oysters; TX

**THE SOUTHWEST REGION**  
California

**The Southwest Region**

**W**ith nearly 90 per cent of California's wetlands destroyed, the number one priority for the Southwest regional team is the preservation of the remaining 10 per cent and creation of new wetlands.

The remaining wetlands provide important mudflat and marsh habitat for marine fish, water birds and marine mammals, particularly harbor seals. They are also an important component of the Pacific Flyway. But these wetlands are under intense pressure from the state's rapid growth in population, urbanization, agriculture, transportation, and diking. They have also been degraded by pollutants from point and nonpoint sources.

While focusing on wetlands restoration, the team attempts to find opportunities to add habitat by reuse of former military bases. It also sees a need to protect and restore the multiple uses of bays and harbors and facilitate transportation infrastructure and corridor modification.

**THE COASTAL PAYOFF**

**C**oastal America partners pooled their efforts to take advantage of the closing and disposal of Hamilton Army Airfield Base to restore 700 acres of diked tidal salt marsh. The project involved transferring ownership of the property to the State of California, linking the Army's contamination cleanup responsibilities with the wetland restoration effort, resolving flood control issues, and using clean dredged material to restore the property to wetland habitats. Led by the Army Corps of Engineers and the California Coastal Conservancy, efforts began in 1995. By 2002 the wetland restoration site, with a capacity for beneficial use of 10.5 million

*cubic yards of dredged material, will be ready to receive this material to provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat. Plans are underway to expand the project to include another 1600 acres.*

**A** severe freeze during the winter of 1990-91 wiped out most of the vegetation covering coastal dunes at the northern boundary of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. Almost 44 acres of dunes were left without protective cover. They were in danger of shifting and causing damage to adjacent National Park Service land and private property. Working with the City of Monterey Parks Department, Coastal America partners launched an aggressive replanting and weed control project. Volunteers removed all exotic vegetation and planted more than 150,000 seedlings representing 26 species of native plants. As a result, the dunes were stabilized with a viable plant community. The new native vegetation now provides habitat for the endangered Smith's blue butterfly and the endangered black legless lizard which had been documented on the property prior to damage to the dunes.



A Southwest team discusses restoration plans at Hamilton Army Airfield; CA

**THE NORTHWEST  
REGION**

Idaho  
Oregon  
Washington

**The Northwest Region**

In the Northwest, watersheds extend from mountaintops to the sea, connecting issues of coastal concern to inland habitat. The regional team solicits projects from local area teams, giving equal priority to projects that address listed species, connections between the Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts, barriers to fish passage, and education. The team integrates their process with existing regional efforts.

Projects have included turning an old water filtration plant into a fish hatchery and constructing fish ladders and weirs, noxious weed eradication, ripari-

an and stream restoration, and potential dam removal requested by local jurisdictions.

**THE COASTAL PAYOFF**

Seattle's Duwamish River is one of the largest ports on the west coast. Dredge and fill activities and heavy usage had eliminated almost 96 percent of the estuarine habitat. A Coastal America project combined federal and state agency efforts with the Port of Seattle and Native American tribes to recreate mudflats, emergent marsh, and intertidal sloughs throughout the estuary. Work began at a site owned by the U.S. General Services Administration. Workers removed a building, pilings and a parking area. They graded and planted to create habitat. As a result, during the following growing season, native plants colonized the site and wildlife returned. River otters, California sea lions, green and great blue herons, flocks of Canada Geese and ducks were sighted there. Similar

work at the Port's turning basin and another site followed, resulting in improvements to the port and long-term environmental benefits.

Working together, the State of Washington, the Stillaguamish Tribe, Trout Unlimited, the Student Conservation Association of America, and Coastal America agencies took on a project to restore and maintain fish stocks. The partners constructed a hatchery at the Jim Creek Naval Radio Station to raise salmon for the Northwest Washington run. They built fish ladders to assist the Steelhead trout runs. The first salmon from the hatchery were released in December 1993 for their run to the ocean. The salmon, tagged so they could be identified, returned to Jim Creek on schedule in the fall of 1996 and spawned within 50 feet of where they were released. As a result, salmon from the hatchery will help maintain the offshore fishing industry. The fish ladders and habitat restoration will increase fish populations for native subsistence and recreational fishing.



A restoration project at Jim Creek improved salmon habitat and benefitted the entire watershed; WA

THE ALASKA REGION

Alaska

## The Alaska Region

The main focus of the Alaska regional team is restoration of anadromous fish streams impacted by development and intense recreational fishing. The team also focuses on protection of at-risk species, pollution abatement, environmentally sound resource management and sustainable development.

Projects have been diverse. There have been stream and wetland restorations. There was work to conserve a rare plant, Barneby's Milkvetch, on an Air Force base. And there was a long-term effort to stabilize the banks of the Kenai River.

The Kenai River project is a testament to the quality of work being done. In 1995, a hundred-year flood event washed away or severely damaged many bulkheads and other artificial bank protection structures. However, where the Coastal America project had used innovative bio-engineering techniques to protect the riverbank instead of traditional bulkheads, damage was slight.



### THE COASTAL PAYOFF

On Duck Creek, near Juneau, a Coastal America team of 26 organizations, including small businesses, and local, state and federal agencies, came together to rescue an historically abundant salmon run. A collection of projects were undertaken to tackle problems caused by urbanization,



Restoration work at Duck Creek; AK

such as water diversion, sedimentation, channelization, inadequate stream crossings, loss of habitat, littering, and poor water quality generally. The partnership constructed ponds and wetlands, modified bridges and culverts, cleared channels and created marshes and erosion controls. As a result, water quality is improved. Stream flow is increased for migrating salmon. Habitat now exists where young salmon can winter.

Building on an existing relationship between the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Girl Scouts of America, federal partners and the Alaska SeaLife Center are developing an educational program that focuses on Alaska's critical coastal issues. The SeaLife Center is a des-

ignated Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. Partners developed a workshop that fits into an existing merit badge program for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts. As a result, young Alaskans learn about the importance of balancing development and conservation, the danger to natural resources from pollution and oil spills, scientific methods and technology being used to study coastal problems, and funding issues. Girls are also taught about career opportunities in these fields. In the future, partners will expand the program to include a workshop for younger Girl Scouts, a new badge program specifically designed around the aquatic ecosystem, and an overnight education program at the Alaska SeaLife Center.



**THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

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

the foreign species have been in the Great Lakes for more than 100 years and compete aggressively with native species.

Problems addressed have ranged from how to control lamprey populations to what to do with dairy farm wastewater. Solutions range from constructing new islands of quality habitat from dredged materials to changing the way farmers apply fertilizer.

*Traps have been developed to replace chemical lampricide that was formerly the weapon of choice. Female lampreys that are trapped are destroyed. Males are sterilized and released to disrupt the breeding cycle. Traps at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan have been constructed and are in operation. Initial installation of barriers are scheduled to begin in 2002 and continue for many years.*

**TO LEARN MORE**

...about sea lampreys, see <http://www.gllfc.org/lampcon.htm>

**The Great Lakes Region**

**T**he Great Lakes regional team identified contamination by toxic substances as the dominant concern. Thus, the team focuses its efforts on prevention of nonpoint source pollution and remediation of contaminated sediments.

The control of exotic organisms is also a priority. These organisms that are not indigenous to the Great Lakes include the zebra mussel, sea lamprey, alewife, Asian clam, and various plants. Many of

**THE COASTAL PAYOFF**

**S**ea lampreys, native to the Atlantic Ocean, invaded the Great Lakes in the 1920's. These parasites have severely damaged commercial and recreational fish stocks in the Great Lakes. Each is capable of killing up to 40 pounds of fish in its lifetime. In Lake Huron alone, the fishing industry loses an estimated \$2.5 million annually to sea lampreys. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers are working with the Great Lakes states and the government of Canada to reduce the lamprey population.

**F**ocusing on the Great Lakes' problem of nonpoint source pollution from agricultural runoff, Coastal America partners joined the State of Wisconsin to test the use of artificial wetlands to treat dairy farm waste. Disposing of wastewater from the farms' milkhouses is expensive, both economically and environmentally. During the project, wetland "cells" were constructed on a participating farm. The wetlands are designed to maximize natural, physical, chemical and biological processes. Wastewater from the milkhouse is pumped through a series of the wetland cells before being released to the environment. As a result, artificial wetland treatment is now accepted as an innovative alternative to the expensive transfer of milkhouse wastes to manure storage units.



Sea lampreys harm recreational and commercial fisheries; Great Lakes

**THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION**

- Hawaii
- American Samoa
- Guam
- Northern Marianas Islands
- Micronesia
- Palau
- Marshall Islands

The regional team...will also promote sustainable development through the watershed approach to natural resource planning and management.

**The Pacific Islands Region**

Because of their unique ecosystem and distance from the continental U.S., the Pacific Islands were recognized as a separate region late in 1999.

The regional team is just beginning its work. It will focus on improving the ecological productivity and bio-diversity of the island habitats. It will also promote sustainable development through the watershed approach to natural resource planning and management.

One of the first projects planned by the Coastal America team is an effort to restore the Hanalei River and its watershed to as close to its natural pristine state as possible.



**THE COASTAL PAYOFF**

Non-native plants are invading the wetland homes of Hawaii's endangered waterbirds. Wetlands are rare on these islands, and it is important that every acre be restored and managed. The Pacific Island Coastal America team is developing plans to use an amphibious excavator to remove the invasive vegetation on Oahu and other islands. Four National Wildlife Refuges will reap the benefits of this project, as will private and state lands. Most importantly, the wetlands will once again provide quality habitat for these rare waterbirds.



Rare waterbirds are losing their habitat to invasive aquatic plants; HI



# COASTAL AMERICA

## LESSONS LEARNED

Much has been learned in the past ten years.

Technical lessons have been captured in several technology transfer and consensus reports. Programmatic lessons are included in the annual Progress Reports and other documents (Appendix E). In addition, the Coastal America process itself is a path of learning. From the beginning, participants have

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The partners continually refine the process to incorporate and share new knowledge.

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been capturing the lessons for future use. At the 1993 annual retreat the Regional Chairs summarized the lessons learned during the first year. They include (1) *the need to define site ecological goals for the project while considering limiting factors inherent in the landscape;* (2) *the need to accurately define the roles of the various participants at the beginning of the project;* and (3) *the need to formalize the agreement to maximize the ownership of each of the partners at every level of their organization.*



The partners meet regularly to share ideas and develop innovative solutions; Principals meeting, DC



*The Rains Mill Dam, before, during and after demolition; NC.*

**Effective protection and restoration of coastal areas must consider the entire watershed...this ecosystem approach requires collaborative problem solving.**

Applying their bias for flexibility and action, the partners continually refine the process to incorporate and share new knowledge. The following list of process lessons, in no particular order, demonstrates both the success of the Coastal America partnership and the potentially broad application of its principles.

- Coastal America's collaborative approach yields unprecedented opportunities for collective creativity in environmental problem solving. By encouraging collaboration rather than confrontation, the process fosters positive working relationships between the "natural resource" and "infrastructure" agencies and the military.
- Coastal America's extensive network of key players at all levels in all sectors and all geographic areas enables broad consensus and cost-effective program implementation.

● Sustainable development – that is, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs – can only be achieved by integrating economic development, environmental protection and natural resource management. Coastal America's partnership process accomplishes that integration on a project-by-project basis.

● Effective protection and restoration of coastal areas must consider the entire watershed affecting the ecological system. This ecosystem approach requires collaborative problem solving. It must draw upon the collective resources and expertise of numerous government agencies. It must incorporate the interests of local stakeholders in project planning and implementation.



*Multiple agencies collaborating on a habitat restoration project; RI.*

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Thinking out of the box can result in mutually beneficial use of skills not normally thought of as applicable to environmental protection. For example, military capabilities can be used to restore the coastal environment.

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*The U.S. Marines used explosives to remove the obsolete Rains Mill Dam; NC.*



*A wetland restoration team at work; FL.*

- "Thinking out of the box" can result in mutually beneficial use of skills not normally thought of as applicable to environmental protection. For example, military capabilities can be used to restore the coastal environment.

- The active involvement of the public increases environmental awareness and leads to positive action. It can also develop increased awareness and appreciation for public concerns by the federal agencies.

- Broad regional issues can be addressed at the local level. Conversely, a broader view leading to systemic solutions, can emerge from projects addressing specific local problems.

- Evaluating what does and does not work is critical to ensuring successful efforts in the future. Solutions can be screened for effectiveness, level of difficulty and cost.

- Involving so many agencies and people in a project exposes everyone to the mission and functions of each agency as well as the ideas and ideals of others. It instills a sense of ownership in the project. It provides an opportunity

for people to give back and take action. The result is a better working environment and greater public endorsement.

- Collaboration of multiple agencies is effective. It provides a greater number of programs from which to draw potential solutions. It uses resources and procedures that are already in place and familiar.



*A local team collaborates to reduce nutrient runoff; OH*

# COASTAL AMERICA

## THE FUTURE

**M**uch has been accomplished in a decade of efforts by the Coastal America partners.

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. Numerous species of fish, shellfish, birds, and marine mammals have been protected.

In addition, the amount of non-federal money going into coastal restoration and protection is increasing steadily.

Trust has been earned. Lasting relationships have been formed. Both are necessary for future successes.

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**We need to invest in cost-effective technologies and partnerships that leverage our existing limited funds. To help accomplish that, the Coastal America partnership will continue to develop as a model of federal cooperation.**

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**B**ut there is still much to do.

The future must include prevention of further damage as well as restoration. Coastal resource management must become a way of life. As Barbara A. Mikulski, U.S. Senator from Maryland, has noted, "Cleaning up our past mistakes in regard to the environment is very costly. We can't afford to continue these mistakes and then pass the bills on to others in the future. We need to invest in cost-effective technologies and partnerships that leverage our existing limited funds."

To help accomplish this, the Coastal America partnership will continue to develop as a model of federal cooperation. In the words of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation report in 1996,



*Restored dune and wetland habitat at Dauphin Island Sea Lab; AL*

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Such an approach enhances the sustainability of ecosystems and of the economy. It also stretches federal dollars.

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"this pattern of behavior is not only more cost efficient and productive but also demonstrates to the public that the federal government as a whole can act sensibly and efficiently in cooperation with state and local governments and the private sector."

The highly successful Coastal America process is a roadmap that the federal government can follow in addressing other environmental issues.

For example, the idea of planning and implementing management and restoration activities within the context of an entire watershed, instead of as individual solutions to unrelated problems, has broad application. This

watershed approach can be used for inland as well as coastal programs. Such an approach enhances the sustainability of ecosystems and of the economy. It also stretches federal dollars.

A "watershed America" process could build on the existing multi-agency Coastal America process to give similar cost effective attention to critical problems of our inland waterways.

Another concept with universal application is the Coastal America commitment to technology transfer and public education as integral parts of any project. Coastal America activities demonstrate that well-planned and carefully integrated outreach increases learning

opportunities for professionals and for the public. It also generates buy-in for the project.

There is a continuing need throughout the government for interpretive information about federal projects. The Coastal America partners and the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers can serve as teachers to help other agencies expand information exchange and public involvement.

Within the existing Coastal America process, the partners see a need for long-term monitoring of project results. Monitoring provides a critical measure of the true success of efforts and tech-

niques. It provides a sound basis for making future decisions. Given appropriate resources, Coastal America could take a leadership role in fitting a meaningful, cost-effective monitoring piece into the puzzle of each environmental project.

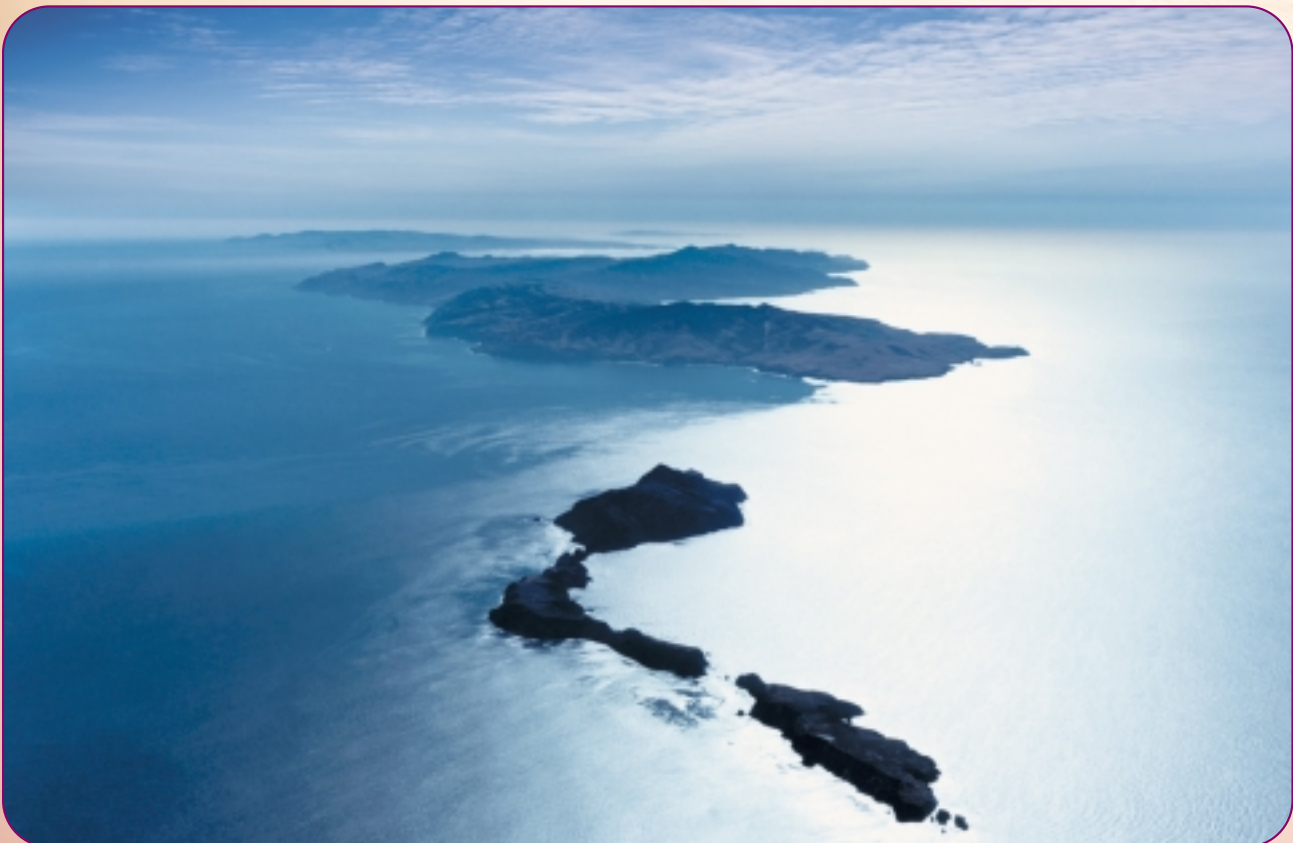
Recent collaborations between 'Corporate America' and Coastal America are extremely promising. Corporate colleagues provide valuable new resources for coastal restoration and protection. They open the door to expertise and funding that until now has been virtually untapped. Coastal America is poised to take full advantage of this opportunity. But the collabora-

tions can also be a model for addressing other national needs.

Overall, now and in the future, the partners will work to make sure the Coastal America process lives up to the praise given it by William Cavanaugh, president of Carolina Power & Light, in 1998. He called it "a **true coalition – a voluntary partnership that lives up to the unofficial motto: Let's make it a great day for fish.**"

**TO LEARN MORE**

...about these topics, see  
<http://www.coastalamerica.gov/>



*Collaborative partnerships are key to the future of our coastal environment.*

# COASTAL AMERICA

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A

## COASTAL AMERICA FEDERAL PARTNERS

### RESOURCE AGENCIES

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY** - EPA has broad responsibilities for improving water quality and aquatic habitat through programs to reduce and prevent pollution, manage dredged material, and protect and restore wetlands, coral reefs, estuaries of national significance and other coastal watersheds. [www.epa.gov/water](http://www.epa.gov/water)

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/NOAA** - NOAA is working to restore and maintain fish stocks, protect marine mammals and threatened or endangered species, manage marine sanctuaries and estuarine reserves, and administer the state-based Coastal Zone Management Program. Also available on NOAA's website is a "State of the Coast" report and an opportunity to participate in a national dialogue on coastal stewardship. Key partner agencies are the National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Ocean Service. [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR**- DOI has a number of bureaus responsible for protecting and managing coastal resources. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides grants to coastal states for the acquisition, restoration or enhancement of coastal wetlands and tidelands, and implements conservation projects. The Minerals Management Service oversees development of marine mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf and is working with states to support beach nourishment and wetlands protection efforts. The National Parks Service manages and protects more than 60 parks that are located in coastal areas. Other key partners are the U.S. Geological Survey, which provides scientific and technical expertise on coastal resources issues and the Bureau of Land Management, which is responsible for the management of millions of acres of rangelands mostly in the western United States. [www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov)



## A P P E N D I X A

### INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCIES

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE** - USDA conservation programs are helping farmers, forest landowners and homeowners conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment. Key partners include Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Forest Service, and the Farm Service Agency. [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION** - Under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the Federal Highway Administration operates programs to help improve air and water quality, restore wetlands and natural habitat, and rejuvenate urban areas through transportation redevelopment, increased transit, and sustainable alternatives to urban sprawl. The U.S. Coast Guard responds to oil spills and stranded marine mammals, enforces vessel pollution regulations and educates the public about protecting the marine environment. [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY** - DOE sponsors energy conservation and alternative energy programs to reduce the demand for new hydropower sources. [home.doe.gov](http://home.doe.gov)

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING URBAN DEVELOPMENT** - HUD Community Builders program and Brownfields redevelopment projects are rejuvenating and restoring inner cities. [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)

### MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS** - The Corps is responsible for regulating the placement and transportation of dredged sediments, and plays a key role in preserving and restoring coastal habitats through its civil works program authorities. [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil)

**MILITARY SERVICES** - The Military Services, the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy support Coastal America through a variety of programs. DoD Legacy Resource Management Program emphasizes partnerships to protect and conserve natural and cultural resources. The new Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program allows readiness training activities to provide benefits to local communities. Prior to 1997 and DoD Directive 1120.20, military commanders committed training resources to Coastal America projects through other authorities. In addition, the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) supports basic and applied research and development of technologies that support defense-related environmental issues. [www.denix.osd.mil](http://www.denix.osd.mil)



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:** Recognizing the need to protect, preserve and restore our living coastal heritage, the President announced the Coastal America initiative in February 1991. This initiative established a partnership for action among the four Federal agencies having primary responsibility for the management, regulation, and stewardship of coastal living resources: the Department of the Army, the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The President's Council on Environmental Quality coordinates the partnership. The partners are committed to a national effort which initially addresses the primary coastal concerns of habitat loss and degradation, non-point source pollution and contaminated sediments. The initiative focuses on regional activities that provide direct local and watershed action as well as national projects. Membership in the partnership is open to those agencies with statutory responsibilities for coastal resources or whose operational activities affect the coastal environment.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Coastal America initiative is to protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal ecosystems through existing Federal capabilities and authorities; to facilitate collaboration and cooperation in the stewardship of coastal living resources by working in partnership with other Federal programs and integrating Federal 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 effort operates within existing authorities and serves to link many Federal statutes that affect coastal living resources including: Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Water Resources Development Act of 1986. This Memorandum of Understanding does not amend or abridge any existing statutory authorities.

**General Scope:** Coastal America provides a forum for interagency consultation to identify possibilities for collaborative action and facilitate regional action plans to protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal living resources. Initial efforts will focus on the shared coastal concerns of habitat loss and degradation, nonpoint source pollution and contaminated sediments. To facilitate program activities, the partners have established a Principals Group, a National Implementation Team (NIT), seven Regional Implementation Teams (RITs), and a Coastal America office at the President's Council on Environmental Quality. The partners will 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 Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality chairs the Principals Group. 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 in special workgroups as necessary and employ and facilitate coordination of national, inter-regional and other large-scale projects. The members are senior national-level management staff 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 management staff 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 will identify those authorities under which projects that address the primary coastal concerns and that embody multi-agency, intergovernmental participation could be funded. Projects meeting these criteria will be afforded priority within each partner's program, as appropriate.

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

*Michael R. Deland* 4/15/92  
Michael R. Deland (Date)  
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality

*Nancy P. Dove* 16 April 1992  
Nancy P. Dove (Date)  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
for Civil Works

*Ed Cassidy* 16 April 1992  
Ed Cassidy (Date)  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Department of the Interior

*Laurel S. Wilcher* 16 April 1992  
Laurel S. Wilcher (Date)  
Assistant Administrator for Water  
Environmental Protection Agency

*Joseph Jay Wilcox* 4/16/92  
Joseph Jay Wilcox (Date)  
Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Department of Commerce

*John M. Evans* 4/16/92  
John M. Evans (Date)  
Assistant Secretary for Policy  
and International Affairs  
Department of Transportation

*John H. Benter* 6/1/92  
John H. Benter (Date)  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Natural Resources and Environment  
Department of Agriculture

*Jacqueline E. Schell* 25 June 1992  
Jacqueline E. Schell (Date)  
Assistant Secretary for Installations  
and Environment  
Department of the Navy

*Gary D. Vail* 26 June 1992  
Gary D. Vail (Date)  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment,  
Safety and Occupational Health  
Department of the Air Force



**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 Act, and National Environmental Policy Act. This Memorandum of Understanding does not amend or abridge any existing statutory authorities.

**General Scope:** Coastal America provides a forum for interagency collaborative action and a mechanism to facilitate regional action plans to protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal living resources. Partnership efforts will continue to emphasize the shared coastal concerns of habitat loss and degradation, nonpoint source pollution, and contaminated sediments. Other priority issues will be addressed as appropriate. To facilitate program activities, the partners have established a Principals Group, a National Implementation Team (NIT), Regional 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 activities 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.

*Mark Baker* 12 July 1994  
 D. James Baker, *Chair* (Date)  
 Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere  
 Department of Commerce

*John Larson* 7/15/94  
 John Larson (Date)  
 Assistant Secretary  
 for National Resources and Environment  
 Department of the Interior

*William A. Callahan* 7/15/94  
 William A. Callahan (Date)  
 Assistant Secretary  
 for Reserve Affairs, Installations and Environment  
 Department of the Air Force

*John M. Zirwinski* 7/15/94  
 John M. Zirwinski (Date)  
 Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Works  
 Department of the Army

*Douglas K. Hall* 7/15/94  
 Douglas Hall (Date)  
 Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere  
 Department of Commerce

*Susan F. Tierney* 7/15/94  
 Susan F. Tierney (Date)  
 Assistant Secretary for Policy  
 Department of Energy

*Shari Wasserman* 7/15/94  
 Shari Wasserman, *Goodman* (Date)  
 Deputy Under Secretary for Environmental Security  
 Department of Defense

*Andrew Conroy* 7/14/94  
 Andrew Conroy (Date)  
 Assistant Secretary  
 for Community Planning and Development  
 Department of Housing and Urban Development

*Scottie Cohen* 7/13/94  
 Scottie Cohen (Date)  
 Assistant Secretary  
 for Policy, Management and Budget  
 Department of the Interior

*Robert B. Paris, Jr.* 7/12/94  
 Robert B. Paris, Jr. (Date)  
 Assistant Secretary  
 for Installations and Environment  
 Department of the Navy

*Frank Kraus* 7/12/94  
 Frank Kraus (Date)  
 Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy  
 Department of Transportation

*Robert Porciacope* 7/12/94  
 Robert Porciacope (Date)  
 Assistant Administrator for Water  
 Environmental Protection Agency

Protecting, Preserving and Restoring America's Coastal Heritage

# COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

## COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding team efforts to protect and restore coastal resources through collaborative partnerships with federal, state and local governments, non-profit organizations and private industry. Awards are given for notable projects and partnership processes.

### PROJECT AWARDS

#### 1997

- Narragansett Bay Eelgrass Mapping Project (NERIT)
- Sandy Island Mitigation Team (SERIT)
- Northern Right Whale Monitoring Project (SERIT)
- Sonoma Baylands Wetland Restoration Project (SWRIT)
- Duwamish Estuary Habitat Restoration Project (NWRIT)

#### 1998

- Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge Restoration Team (NERIT)
- Quaker Neck Dam Removal Team (SERIT)
- Cockroach Bay Restoration Alliance (GMRIT)

#### 1999

- Clear Creek Wetland Restoration Project Team (GMRIT)
- Duck Creek Advisory Group (AKRIT)
- Galilee Salt Marsh Restoration Team (NERIT)
- Kenai River Resource Protection and Education Team (AKRIT)
- Shamrock Island Protection and Restoration Team (GMRIT)
- Penobscot Watershed (Souadabscook Stream) Anadromous Fish Restoration Team (NERIT)

#### 2000

- Fort McHenry Wetland Restoration Team (MARIT)
- Rains Mill Dam Removal Team (SERIT)
- Breton Island Restoration Team (GMRIT)
- Little Falls Fishway Task Group (MARIT)
- Partnership for Conservation of Los Osos Coastal Dunes (SWRIT)

## PROCESS AWARDS

#### 1997

- Northeast Regional Implementation Team (NERIT)
- Southeast Regional Implementation Team (SERIT)

#### 1998

- Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Workgroup (National)

#### 1999

- Alaska Regional Implementation Team (AKRIT)

#### 2000

- Maine Coastal Wetland Restoration Partnership (NERIT)
- The Massachusetts Wetlands and Banking Program and the Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership (NERIT)

## COASTAL AMERICA SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

The Special Recognition award is presented to an organization for their demonstrated leadership in protecting and restoring coastal resources.

#### 1998

- Carolina Power & Light Company

#### 1999

- The New England Aquarium
- The Maine Council of Atlantic Salmon Federation
- Reliant Energy

#### 2000

- The Gillette Company
- Marine Wing Support Squadron 271

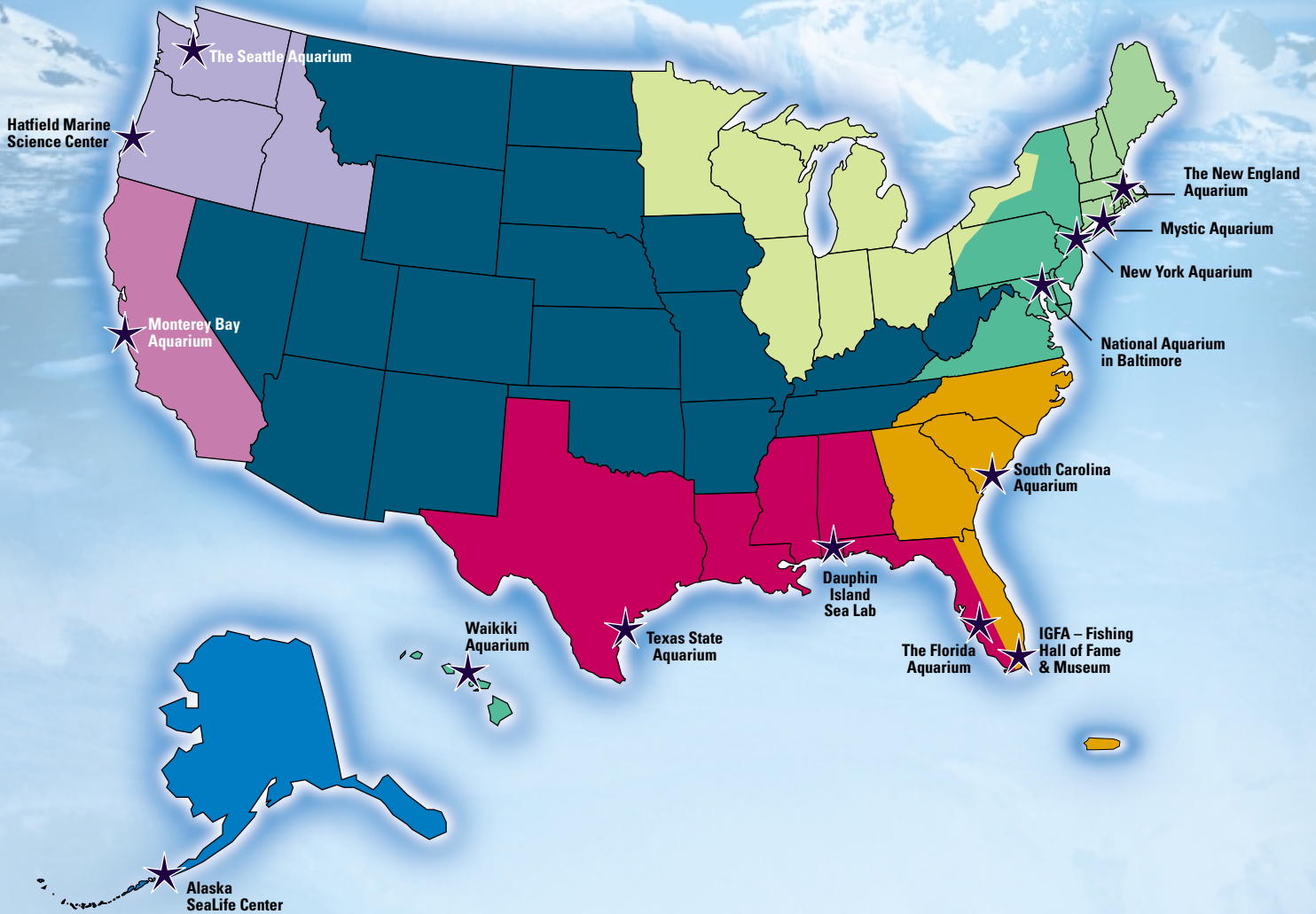
## JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

The John H. Chafee Award recognizes individuals who consistently demonstrate outstanding leadership related to the restoration and protection of our nation's coastal and marine environment.

### REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS (RIT)

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Northeast – NERIT      | Northwest – NWRIT       |
| Mid-Atlantic - MARIT   | Alaska – AKRIT          |
| Southeast – SERIT      | Pacific Islands – PIRIT |
| Gulf of Mexico – GMRIT | Great Lakes – GLRIT     |
| Southwest – SWRIT      |                         |

# COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS



Protecting, Preserving and Restoring America's Coastal Heritage

## TO VISIT OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CELC NEAREST YOU, CONTACT:

**Alaska SeaLife Center**, Seward, AK  
(907) 224-6300 or [www.alaskasealife.org](http://www.alaskasealife.org)

**Dauphin Island Sea Lab**, Dauphin Island, AL  
(334) 861-2141 or [www.disl.org](http://www.disl.org)

**The Florida Aquarium**, Tampa, FL  
(813) 273-4000 or [www.flaquarium.org](http://www.flaquarium.org)

**Hatfield Marine Science Center**, Newport, OR  
(541) 867-0257 or [hmsc.orst.edu/education](http://hmsc.orst.edu/education)

**IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum**, Dania Beach, FL  
(954) 927-2628 or [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org)

**Monterey Bay Aquarium**, Monterey, CA  
(831) 648-4800 or [www.mbayaq.org](http://www.mbayaq.org)

**Mystic Aquarium**, Mystic, CT  
(860) 572-5955 or [www.mysticaquarium.org](http://www.mysticaquarium.org)

**National Aquarium in Baltimore**, Baltimore, MD  
(410) 576-3800 or [www.aqua.org](http://www.aqua.org)

**New England Aquarium**, Boston, MA  
(617) 973-5200 or [www.neaq.org](http://www.neaq.org)

**New York Aquarium**, New York, NY  
(718) 265-3400 or [www.wcs.org](http://www.wcs.org)

**Seattle Aquarium**, Seattle, WA  
(206) 386-4300 or [www.seattleaquarium.org](http://www.seattleaquarium.org)

**South Carolina Aquarium**, Charleston, SC  
(843) 720-1990 or [www.scaquarium.org](http://www.scaquarium.org)

**Texas State Aquarium**, Corpus Christi, TX  
(361) 881-1200 or [www.texasstateaquarium.org](http://www.texasstateaquarium.org)

**Waikiki Aquarium**, Honolulu, HI  
(808) 923-9741 or [www.waquarium.org](http://www.waquarium.org)

## COASTAL AMERICA PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are available from the Coastal America office.

*Coastal Challenges: A Guide to Coastal and Marine Issues.* Updated, 2000. This extensive resource serves as a guide for environmental reporters, managers, and students. It includes definitions of coastal terms, information on coastal issues, key laws, and associated programs.\*

*Environmental Partnerships, Lessons Learned: Coastal America Technology Transfer Report.* 1999. This report outlines the Coastal America process and details the outstanding collaborative efforts of the partnership.\*

*Coastal Restoration and Protection Lessons Learned: Coastal America Technology Transfer Report.* 1995. This report outlines the Coastal America partnership and describes the lessons learned through the partnership's projects.\*

*Towards a Watershed Approach: A Framework for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, Protection, and Management.* This 22 page consensus report depicts the benefits of using a watershed approach in protecting our nation's aquatic ecosystems.\*

*The Fragile Fringe: Coastal Wetlands of the Continental United States.* This 18 page consensus report describes the function and value of coastal wetlands.\*

*Coastal America Progress Reports.* Annually, 1992 - . These annual reports summarize the national and regional accomplishments, innovations, and initiatives that have occurred in the partnership each year since its inception.\*

*Coastal America Update.* Quarterly, 1994 - . Coastal America's quarterly newsletters serve as an information exchange for partners across the country. The updates provide information about current projects and are a valuable means of sharing new ideas throughout the partnership.\*


*Coastal America: A Partnership for Action.* This brochure provides a general overview of the Coastal America partnership and the importance of protecting, preserving, and restoring the nation's coastal ecosystems.

*Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership.* 2000. This brochure outlines the background and process of the Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership.

*Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers.* 2001. This brochure was designed to engage the public in gaining a better understanding of the coastal environment and provide them with information about centers of marine education in their local area.

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\* See the Coastal America website: [www.coastalamerica.gov](http://www.coastalamerica.gov).



Coastal America is a multi-agency partnership dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring the nation's coastal environment. Participating federal partners include:

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

May 2001



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# COASTAL AMERICA

300 7th St. SW Suite 680  
Washington, DC 20250-0599

202 • 401 • 9928

[www.coastalamerica.gov](http://www.coastalamerica.gov)