



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

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Penobscot Watershed Anadromous Fish Restoration Team Receives Partnership Award

Members of the Penobscot Watershed Anadromous Fish Restoration Team received the 1999 Partnership Award from Coastal America on August 5, 1999, in Eddington, Maine. The award recognizes the team's partnership efforts in removing three dams on the Souadabscook Stream in the Penobscot Watershed.

James Lyons, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture, and Ambassador James Pipkin, Counselor to the Secretary of the Department of Interior, addressed the awardees and presented the awards at the Eddington Salmon Club. In addition to plaques, award winners received a letter of congratulations from the Vice President.

The Souadabscook Stream, historically known by the Penobscot Indians as the "river of many sea fishes", drains approximately 165 square miles of Maine. Three dams prevented the upstream passage of native anadromous fish for over 250 years. The largest of these dams, the Grist Mill Dam, was the most significant barrier to migrating fish. This dam was removed last fall. When the partners were successful in removing these impoundments, water aeration increased and stream temperatures were reduced which improved conditions for forage fish, like American shad, alewives, and rainbow smelt, and important game fish like Atlantic Salmon, sea-run brook trout and striped bass. It has also eliminated potential flooding and damage to Route 1A from erosion.



Penobscot Watershed Anadromous Fish Restoration Team.

New England Aquarium Receives Special Recognition Award

The New England Aquarium received a Coastal America Special Recognition Award on September 13, 1999. This award recognizes the Aquarium for its leadership in working with federal agency partners to develop the CELC network. Terry Garcia, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, U.S. Department of Commerce, presented the award to Dr. Jerry Schubel, President of the New England Aquarium. The Aquarium has helped define the many ways that the Coastal America federal agency partners can work with the CELC's to increase public awareness of the importance of ocean and coastal resources. Among the examples are the Aquarium's Teacher Sabbatical Program featuring workshops and field trips for inner-city teachers. Personnel from federal agencies participate in the program by serving as lecturers, guiding field trips, and providing training and educational manuals and materials. Last year, the Aquarium also hosted a Year of the Ocean lecture and a regional workshop during the National Ocean Conference.

Duck Creek Advisory Group Receives Partnership Award

The Duck Creek Advisory Group (DCAG) was presented with a Coastal America Partnership Award on September 30, 1999 in Juneau, Alaska. Steve Pennoyer, Regional Administrator, NMFS and Jim Caplan, Deputy Regional Forester, USDA, recognized the group for implementing plans and projects to restore spawning and rearing habitats of anadromous fish in Duck Creek. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Frank Rue was also on hand to honor the recipients. The DCAG, organized in 1993, is comprised of over 25 organizations and partners, including the City and Borough of Juneau, federal and state agencies, private businesses, conservation organizations, and individual homeowners.

Technology Transfer Workshop

On July 26, 1999, Coastal America held a technology transfer workshop in conjunction with Coastal Zone 99 in San Diego, California. The purpose of this day-long workshop was to provide an open forum to discuss the lessons learned from the Coastal America partnership process. Discussion topics included: 1) national resources, expertise and authorities that can be utilized to address coastal problems; 2) regional strategies and priorities for coastal restoration and protection; 3) local project success stories; and 4) partnership opportunities with CELC's. Over 50 participants attended the workshop including national program managers, regional managers, and project managers.



Coastal America display at the Coastal Showcase at CZ 99.

New partnership tools were discussed, including the Aquatic Restoration and Conservation (ARC) partnership. Dail Brown described ARC's goals and priorities, the focus of which is to identify, characterize, and map fish habitat. Margo Bauman spoke on military involvement with Coastal America. She described the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program and opportunities for military collaboration with Coastal America. Craig Vogt discussed the National Dredging Team which was started in the late 1980's as an interagency task force. It is composed of Regional Dredging Teams and local planning groups that are concerned with National Dredging Policy and the beneficial use of dredged material.

Several projects were highlighted at the workshop including the Souadabscook River, ME; Duck Creek, AK; and Cockroach Bay near Tampa, FL. Several administration initiatives were discussed as well. Jeff Benoit spoke on the Coral Reef Task Force and Loretta Neumann discussed the American Heritage Rivers Initiative. Vickie Allin highlighted the Clean Water Action Plan, a federally coordinated watershed approach to restore and protect US waters.

John MacKenzie, Manager of Environmental Affairs of Gillette, spoke on the Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Project. Large and small companies, including Gillette, have joined together in a 3 to 5 year commitment to use public and private funds to restore wetlands. They have already had a successful kickoff in Massachusetts, with plans to go national using the Coastal America structure.

Brownville Dam Breached

The Brownville Dam, located on the Pleasant River in the Penobscot Watershed of Maine, was breached on August 5, 1999. Included in the audience were James Lyons, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture, and Ambassador James Pipkin, Counselor to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.



James Lyons, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, initiating the breaching of the Brownville Dam.

The 12-foot high, 300-foot long dam was inactive and partially breached. The remaining structure was the only impediment to adult salmon migration on the Pleasant River. The removal of this dam allows for 300 miles of unobstructed anadromous fish habitat. Removal of the Brownville Dam will also result in improved fish passage, decreased water temperatures, and increased aeration. There will also be aesthetic and recreational benefits; i.e. natural white water conditions will be restored and canoeing and fishing opportunities will be improved.

The former owner sold the dam and adjoining property to the Maine Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and its affiliates. Their plan is to restore the river to its natural condition and work with the town of Brownville to remove derelict buildings, landscape the adjoining areas, and develop a recreational area. The NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) funds were used for 75 percent of the dam removal costs and the USFWS and NFWF covered items not cost shared by WHIP. The EPA, FWS, and the Penobscot Indian Nation also supported removal of this dam.



Former site of the Brownville Dam on the Pleasant River less than two months after removal.

Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Update

New England Aquarium

The New England Aquarium is working on establishing an Advanced Environmental Science Fellowship program for Boston high school juniors and seniors. Fellows, selected on a competitive basis from the expanding ranks of the current internship program, will pursue one-semester individual environmental science projects at the Aquarium and will receive stipends, resources to support their project, a teacher mentor and an Aquarium staff mentor to guide their work, and access to environmental scientists through partnership with Coastal America. Focus areas will include: aquatic science (husbandry, aquaculture, water quality), environmental leadership (community action), and environmental education (public education at the Aquarium and in the field). Student projects will culminate in a final presentation or field trip for their high school classmates. The program and its participants will be part of a long-term tracking study to assess the impact of Aquarium youth programs that will serve as a model for other programs in Boston.

Mystic Aquarium

The Mystic Aquarium is preparing to release a pair of stranded pilot whales back into the wild in October 1999. These two animals were stranded on Cape Cod and brought to the Aquarium on June 28, 1999. They were treated for a bacterial infection and have recently been given a clean bill of health by the Aquarium's vet. The NMFS requires that the animals be released in a suitable area where they would likely be in proximity to others of their own kind. The target area is located south of Block Island, Rhode Island, between 25 and 100 miles offshore. The Aquarium is also working with the Connecticut DEP, NOAA's Sea Grant, and EPA to develop a traveling exhibit on coastal habitats, tidal wetlands, and coral reefs. Two copies of the display are being made and will be available for use by other CELC's and Coastal America federal agency partners. Brochures for each topic are also being prepared to accompany the exhibits.

New York Aquarium

The Aquarium, in partnership with the New York DEP, conducted a Tidal Wetlands Class for wetlands regulations violators and environmental law students from SUNY Law School. The students functioned as a small focus group for feedback concerning an additional new focus for this five year old program. The Aquarium is interested in modifying this class and offering it as a professional seminar for Law and Real Estate students focusing on enforcement of tidal wetlands regulations. This class has been suggested as a pilot for a class that all Coastal America CELC's provide, although tailored to

meet regional needs and interests. The Aquarium is also working with EPA and FWS to organize an Environmental Career Day at the Aquarium on April 14, 2000. Other federal, state and local agency partners are needed. The target audience will be junior high schools, high schools and colleges with environmental science divisions.

National Aquarium in Baltimore

In partnership with the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), the Biology Department of Morgan State University, NOAA's Coastal Services Center and Estuarine Reserves Division, NAIB is starting a program to train minority undergraduate and graduate students in the use of data collection and analysis technologies currently used in the NERR program. Students will be trained to operate the NERR System-Wide Monitoring Program at a proposed station adjacent to the Ft. McHenry National Monument on the Patapsco River in Baltimore, MD. The Ft. McHenry site is strategic in many ways: it is located at the head of a tidal tributary that receives waters from three highly urbanized watersheds (Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls, and Patapsco River); it is adjacent to a ten-acre wetland that was created in partnership with Coastal America and that the Aquarium is currently monitoring and maintaining in partnership with the University; and it is a significant cultural landmark that receives over 600,000 visitors each year. The monitoring station will be clearly visible to these visitors from an overlook on the grounds of the Ft. McHenry National Monument. Trained with NERRS and NMS equipment and protocols, students in this program become qualified candidates for internships and job openings at the NERR and national marine sanctuary sites. Additionally, the establishment of a real-time monitoring station in a highly urbanized Chesapeake Bay location provides an ideal platform to communicate watershed dynamics and nonpoint source pollution issues through the interpretation of water quality data while raising awareness of the NERR program to almost 1.7 million annual Aquarium visitors.

Texas State Aquarium

Texas State Aquarium held a public event on August 28, 1999 to raise awareness for the Sustainable Seas Expeditions (SSE) into the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS), which took place September 1 - September 13, 1999. Although the event took place the first weekend after Hurricane Bret, attendance by the public was high: 1,500 on August 28th and 18,000 over the course of the SSE. A full-sized model of DeepWorker 2000 and interpretive graphics were on display. Three submersible pilots, including the Manager of the sanctuary, were on hand to talk to the public about the upcoming expedition. Local representatives from Coastal America partner agencies set up displays throughout the Aquarium, including DOI-Padre Island National Seashore, NOAA- FGBNMS, NMFS,

National Weather Service, and USDA-NRCS. Navy divers demonstrated re-breather equipment during special dive shows. Other conservation groups that participated included Texas Sea Grant, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, and the National Spill Control School. The DeepWorker 2000 model was on display through September 16, 1999. The Aquarium also held a teacher workshop on August 24th to distribute teacher guides developed by SSE and plans to continue working with the sanctuary to increase teacher and student involvement in the project over the next few years.

Hatfield Marine Science Center

The HMSC is working with the NWRIT to identify federal partners to carry out an estuary/wetland demonstration project that would expand HMSC educational activities onto the grounds of the center and tie it into a system of hiking trails being developed in the area. The two-acre site in front of the center, which is currently made up of dredge fill materials from channel maintenance conducted over the past 50 years, is available to be developed into a mitigated wetland. The project will be done in cooperation with the City of Newport which has a need for a mitigation site as a result of their expansion of the sewage treatment plant. The State of Oregon will be involved through the issuance of permits, and the COE could offer assistance through their wetland mitigation planning and implementation processes. The first year of a five year summer student internship agreement between the Bureau of Land Management and the HMSC has come to a successful conclusion.

Alaska SeaLife Center

The Alaska SeaLife Center is working with the AKRIT on plans with the local Susitna Girl Scout Council to have Cadette-level scouts help develop and present programs based on the research and rehabilitation efforts at the SeaLife Center. This project would build on the existing NMFS/Girl Scout partnership. In partnership with the National Park Service (at Kenai Fjords National Park), the Center plans to develop curriculum and collaborative programs using a \$25,000 PARKS grant awarded at the time of designation. On October 5-6, 1999, the Center hosted a training session with the "Youth Area Watch" group, which is funded by Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. A group of high school students and teachers will develop restoration/research projects, and subsistence hunters will be trained on how they can provide biological samples to federal agencies and researchers. In addition, the SeaLife Center has offered to provide speakers for a lecture series at the Campbell Creek Science Center in Anchorage.

Coastal America Retreat

Coastal America held its annual retreat September 22-24, 1999, in Bar Harbor, Maine. National and regional team members gathered to share ideas, discuss new concepts for improving the interagency partnership process, and identify opportunities for future collaboration.

The agenda included updates on national and regional activities and reviews of key agency programs. There were presentations and discussions on education/outreach issues, coastal ecosystem learning centers, technology transfer, regional support, and Coastal America's Strategic Plan.



Participants of the 1999 Coastal America Retreat.

REGIONAL UPDATES

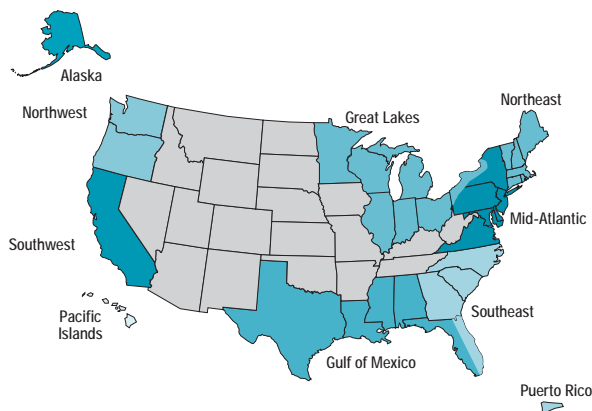
Northeast: The follow-up to the Spring NERIT meeting included a submittal to the DOD Innovative Readiness Training program for the use of military units conducting training exercises at several restoration project sites throughout the Northeast. These activities are requested for the FY-2000/2001 fiscal year training opportunities. The Northeast Team participated in an award ceremony for the leadership efforts of the New England Aquarium in the CELC's initiative. Following the ceremony a tour of the Neponset River Marshes, in Quincy, MA was conducted with the Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. Gillette Corporation, Clean Harbors, and Duke Energy were among the attendees to discuss the MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs partnership that leverages corporate donations with state and federal programs that restore the environment. The NERIT is now scheduling a series of site visits to restoration sites in Maine that could benefit from collaboration among USFWS, NMFS, MEDOT and the COE. Several sites will be reviewed and appropriate programs for implementation identified. Additionally, several new projects have been initiated such as the Anadromous Fish Restoration in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Southeast: The SERIT hosted a Coastal America breakout session on June 30, 1999, at the annual EPA Region IV/DOD Environmental Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The focus of the workshop was on more effective involvement of the military in Coastal America projects in the Southeast. The workshop was successful and has resulted in a number of project proposals involving military installations. The SERIT also held a quarterly meeting on September 14, 1999. They focused on planning for the upcoming designation of the International Game Fish Association's Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum as Coastal America's tenth CELC and on several new partnership project proposals. Designation of the International Game Fish Association's Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum in Fort Lauderdale, Florida is scheduled for November 16, 1999. One of the projects under discussion is the removal of the Rains Mill Dam. Agencies involved in this project include the State of North Carolina, USMC, FWS, COE and others. It appears that the USMC will be involved in the demolition using the opportunity as a training exercise. They intend to use devices that will "implode" rather than "explode" in order to reduce the dam to rubble. The state's contractor will subsequently pull the debris out of the river. This project will open another 150 miles of anadromous fish habitat in the Neuse River Basin. The project team plans to get this effort underway in early December and a project event is scheduled for December 1, 1999. The next SERIT quarterly meeting has been scheduled for January 11, 2000.

Gulf of Mexico: The GMRIT will be holding a meeting and Learning Center workshop this winter. The purpose of the meeting will be to endorse the GMRIT Business Plan/Annual Work Plan and finalize CELC support strategies and actions. The Gulf of Mexico Program's (GMP) FY2000 Annual Work Plan is nearing completion. It will include Coastal America GMRIT perfor-

mance elements. Defining the linkages and action plans for GMP/GMRIT partners and the two CELCs (Florida Aquarium and Texas State Aquarium) will be a prominent element of the GMP/GMRIT Annual Performance Plan. Additionally, the GMP has set a goal of initiating/supporting five Coastal America projects that fall under the following themes: habitat restoration/protection, public health improvements, water quality impairment reductions and exotic species control measures. The GMP/CA-GMRIT partnership has adopted for next year a project to re-vegetate a 13-acre island in Mobile Bay (a rookery site) denuded last fall by Hurricane George. The team has also received a proposal from the Pensacola Naval Air Station to restore a portion of a decommissioned airfield to a pitcher plant bog that has been forwarded to the Mobile District, COE for a partnership opportunity review. Another possible project would be to use tank turrets stock piled in Florida as reef material in Alabama coastal waters.

Pacific Islands: The PIRIT met on October 15, 1999, at the Waikiki Aquarium in Honolulu, Hawaii. At this organizational meeting regional co-chairs were elected and the process of developing a regional strategy for interagency consultation and actions was initiated. This meeting also served to update participants on the findings of the Learning Center evaluation team which performed a site visit for the Waikiki Aquarium on August 26, 1999. Ms. Virginia Tippie, Director of Coastal America joined the PIRIT meeting to provide the team an overview and update on the partnership. The team identified several project opportunities and recommended the Waikiki Aquarium be designated an Ecosystem Learning Center.



Coastal America Regions

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Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Coastal America's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) met on September 21-22, 1999 in Bar Harbor, Maine. The STAC provides technical expertise to the Coastal America Partnership by evaluating projects, identifying new technologies, and determining measures of success. Ken Turgeon, DOI, is the STAC chair and Jeff Payne of NOAA's Coastal Services Center is the vice-chair.

The STAC members reviewed various project proposals and examined regional issues. Topics included initiating direct communication with the principals group, examining metadata processes, aquaculture issues, increasing awareness of the nutria issue, hydrodynamic modeling, project metrics, and technology transfer mechanisms. A discussion of the CELC concept focused on radio-tagging with the Northern Right Whale as an example of collaborative opportunities.

Upcoming Events

NIT Meetings

January 12, 2000

IGFA Designation

November 16, 1999

Principals Meeting

December 8, 1999



Ken Turgeon, STAC Chair, and Jeff Payne, STAC Vice-Chair, were presented National Leadership Awards for their efforts in establishing STAC and for the success of the committee.

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



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