



# COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

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## 2001 ANNUAL RETREAT

New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico Team were generous hosts to nearly 70 partners at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Coastal America Retreat. From May 7-11, our partners gathered from across the country to discuss lessons learned, new and successful initiatives, and ways to further improve the Coastal America process.



*Partners at the 2001 Annual Retreat in New Orleans.*

The retreat began with a welcome reception and a presentation from Dr. Don Davis, Louisiana Oil Spill Program, on “Coastal Louisiana: Issues and Opportunities.” A national perspective on the Coastal America partnership was given by Bill Leary, Associate Director for Natural Resources, President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Mr. Leary stated that President Bush is “supportive of Coastal America and is concerned about the coastal environment and sustaining its vitality,” and noted that Coastal America is “the model we’ve been searching for. I can assure you that as long as I’m involved in CEQ I’m going to get CEQ more involved.” Presentations were given on the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, the Military’s Involvement in the partnership, the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Regional Approaches to the partnership, and the National Perspective of the partnership.

A dinner cruise was held on Wednesday night, and Dr. Joseph Westphal, Acting Secretary of the Army and Chair of Coastal America, gave remarks and presented Coastal America Certificates of Appreciation to Robert Durand, Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental

Affairs and Patrick J. Hester, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline. Later in the week National Leadership Awards were given to Betsy Salter, Education/Outreach Coordinator and Colonel George Schlossnagle, Military Liaison. Regional Leadership Awards were presented to John Naughton (Pacific Islands Team Chair) and Bob Steelquist (Northwest Team).

Round table discussions during the retreat involved how to improve national support of the regional teams, how to strengthen regional teams, and how to ensure continued support from the Administration and Congress.

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# CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP (CWRP)

## STATE UPDATES

### Alaska

In February, national CWRP representatives paid a successful visit to Alaska to discuss establishing the CWRP in that state. Massachusetts Secretary of Environment Robert Durand joined The Gillette Company's Vice President, Wally Hayes, and Manager of Environmental Affairs, John MacKenzie, and the Vice President for ENSR, Garry Hollands, for a series of meetings to introduce the CWRP concept in Alaska. Meetings were held with over 15 companies representing various industries including mining and petroleum companies and tourism-based businesses. Additionally, meetings were held with state agencies, including the Resources Development Council, the Alaska Business Publishing Company, the Denali Commission, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The meetings were very productive and it is expected that a corporate lead for Alaska will be identified late in the Summer.

### Connecticut

Stanley Works formally joined the CWRP, and the partnership adopted the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection project list as potential CWRP projects. In addition, the Ed Bill's Pond fishway project was formally opened at a ceremony on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The second Connecticut CWRP-sponsored project, the Pond Lily Dam fishway, was completed and the fishway was opened at a ceremony on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Plans are underway to convene the state's first advisory board meeting this summer.



*The Gillette Company's John MacKenzie and Wally Hayes joined Massachusetts' Secretary of EOE Robert Durand and Garry Hollands of ENSR in Alaska to discuss the CWRP with state and corporate leaders.*

### Maine

Eleven new companies have joined the Maine CWRP since the beginning of the year, including Bronson Communications, Casco Bay Energy Company, Curtis Thaxter Stevens Broder & Micoeau, Duke Engineering and Services, Mitchell & Sudbay, Normandeau Associates, Verizon, Verrill & Dana, Bangor Hydro-Electric, Central Maine Power, and Cianbro Corporation. The Maine CWRP held its first state advisory board meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> in Portland. The group discussed their bylaws and reviewed a list of potential projects that the partnership would like to support.

### Massachusetts

The Massachusetts CWRP continues to expand their program. They will be hosting another recruitment event with The Gillette Company, at which Senator John Kerry will provide the keynote address. The state's advisory board approved ten additional projects at their April meeting.

### Rhode Island

The Rhode Island CWRP is evolving quickly, with Arch Chemical providing the first commitment to the program. The group's co-lead, Ecological Science Services, is planning a summer kick-off recruiting event.

## NATIONAL UPDATE

The CWRP has been very active at the national level in 2001. The National Advisory Council convened a quarterly meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> at the National Association of Manufacturers offices in Washington, DC. The Council was given updates on the Coastal America Foundation's activities as well as CWRP activities in various states. Mark Wolf-Armstrong, President of Restore America's Estuaries, provided an update about the status of the National Strategy Development required by the Estuary Habitat Act passed last year. This legislation authorizes \$275 M over a five year period for restoration activities, and requires a 35% non-federal match. The National Advisory Council agreed that the CWRP is a very important potential source of the non-federal match, and they



## Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership

will take action to support full funding of the Act. The Council also developed their first marketing strategy and initiated plans to develop a promotional video about the CWRP.

The next quarterly meeting of the National Advisory Council was held in conjunction with the Coastal America Retreat in New Orleans. The Council was pleased to officially recognize FMC Cor-

poration as the newest member of the National Advisory Council. FMC Corporation specializes in improving chemicals and machinery for agricultural markets. Other agenda items included state updates and a discussion about designing a webpage and creating a position for a national CWRP coordinator. The Council will hold its next meeting in September in Washington, DC.



*Members of the National Advisory Council with Massachusetts and Maine Advisory Boards, Dr. Westphal, and Coastal America staff.*

# ALASKA FORUM ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Third Annual Alaska Forum on the Environment was held the week of February 5-9, 2001, at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage, AK. The conference brought together over 1,000 participants to promote a clean, healthy environment for Alaska through education and communication.

The Coastal America exhibit was on display, and the partnership's new initiatives were presented during one of the conference's sessions. Colonel George Schlossnagle, Military Liaison to Coastal America, provided an overview of

military involvement in the partnership, including opportunities for the military to assist with restoration projects. John MacKenzie, Manager of Environmental Affairs for The Gillette Company, gave a brief presentation of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. In particular, he highlighted the benefits received by the participating companies and some of the accomplishments made in New England as a result of corporate participation in the program. Jeanne Hanson, co-chair of the Alaska Regional Team, and Amy Haddow, Education Coordinator for the Alaska SeaLife

Center, provided an overview of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center program. One significant project at the SeaLife Center has been the development of an educational program, entitled the "Rehabilitation Station Program," with Troop 760 of the Susitna Council of the Girl Scouts. The success of the Rehabilitation Station Program has led Coastal America and the national Learning Center network to evaluate the possibility of developing a national Girl Scout Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center badge program.

## Process Spotlight

### Partnership Agreement signed between the State of Alaska and the Alaska Regional Implementation Team

The State of Alaska's Coastal Management Program and the Coastal America partnership signed a partnership agreement to facilitate effective management of the valuable habitats, resources, and uses of Alaska's coastal zone through education, research, rehabilitation, and management. The signing ceremony took place during the Joint Watershed Summit session held at the Alaska Forum for the Environment on February 9, 2001. The Partnership Agreement provides a framework to bring resources together for use on projects of mutual interest and benefit. While the agreement does not commit actual resources, it does provide a mechanism to support projects, research and educational efforts that benefit from cooperation among participants. The Agreement is modeled after the Coastal America resolutions that have been signed with the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.



*James W. Balsiger, AK Regional Administrator for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service; Pat Abney, Co-Chair of Alaska Coastal Policy Council; Patrick Galvin, Director of the Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination; Colonel Steve T. Perrenot, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; David B. Allen, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*



## SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Measurements of Success Workshop

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee held a technical meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> to help Coastal America's Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership (CWRP) identify a means of measuring the success of coastal habitat restoration projects. During the morning session the group heard technical presentations from academia, government, and the private sector. The afternoon session was then used to synthesize the key points from the morning presentations and develop a set of recommendations for use by the CWRP. All agreed that due to the inherent variability in coastal ecosystems and the goals of restoration projects, there cannot be one singular method employed to determine

the success of CWRP projects. However, the group did suggest a series of guidelines that should be followed in order to ensure proper assessment of any given project. Contact the Coastal America office for details.

### Spring Meeting in New Orleans

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee's Spring meeting was held in New Orleans the day before the kickoff of the Coastal America Retreat. A portion of the meeting focused on issues specific to the Gulf region, such as wetland loss in Louisiana, new directions for research and planning in the Gulf of Mexico, and current research relating to invasive nutria and giant spotted jellyfish in the region. Other presentations

focused on the national perspective on invasive species, hypoxia, the use of offshore sand resources for barrier island restoration, a sperm whale tagging program, the brown marsh restoration implementation plan, and the Coastal Restoration and Enhancement through Science and Technology (CREST) Institute.

A few key action items resulted from the meeting, including continued work on developing performance measures for wetland restoration, working more closely with the Regional Teams and the Learning Centers to enhance their invasive species programs, and creating a formal questionnaire to ascertain from the Regional Teams how STAC can best assist them.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> STUDENT OCEAN CONFERENCE

The third in a national series of Student Ocean Conferences was hosted by the Florida Aquarium on April 24, 2001. The Conference brought together about 60 students and 10 teachers from the Tampa Bay region to discuss and debate a number of critical issues facing the health and sustainability of coastal resources: global warming, water quality, invasive species, and fisheries.

Students used round table discussions to develop recommendations for their given issue. Each group presented a summary of both their issue and their solutions, and fielded questions from an expert panel of judges and the audience.

Dr. Sylvia Earle, Ocean Explorer and National Geographic Society Explorer-in-Residence, was the keynote speaker. Her remarks inspired the students to marvel at the underwater world and challenged them to be stewards of our marine treasures.

The Student Ocean Conferences are designed to encourage students to consider the real-life issues associated with managing competing demands on marine resources. Through interactions with various agencies and organizations, students can ask questions of the experts and gain first-hand knowledge of the career opportunities available in marine sciences and natural resource management.



A broad range of partners contributed to the Conference, with agency representatives serving as technical experts, facilitators, and panelists for the students' presentations: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) and National Geographic Society's Sustainable Seas Expedition, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, Tampa Bay National Estuary Program, University of Tampa, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Marine Research Institute, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Hillsborough Co., Charlotte Co., Lewis Environmental Services, Inc, and the Center for Marine Conservation.

The next Student Ocean Conferences are scheduled for November 29-30 at the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, TX, in partnership with the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, and December 11 at the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT.

# PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

## LITTLE FALLS FISHWAY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

The Little Falls Fishway Task Group was recognized with the Coastal America 2000 Partnership Award on January 18, 2001. The presentation was made by Claudia Tornblom, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Management and Budget. The ceremony took place at the Baltimore Civic Center during the Annual Award Ceremony of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District.

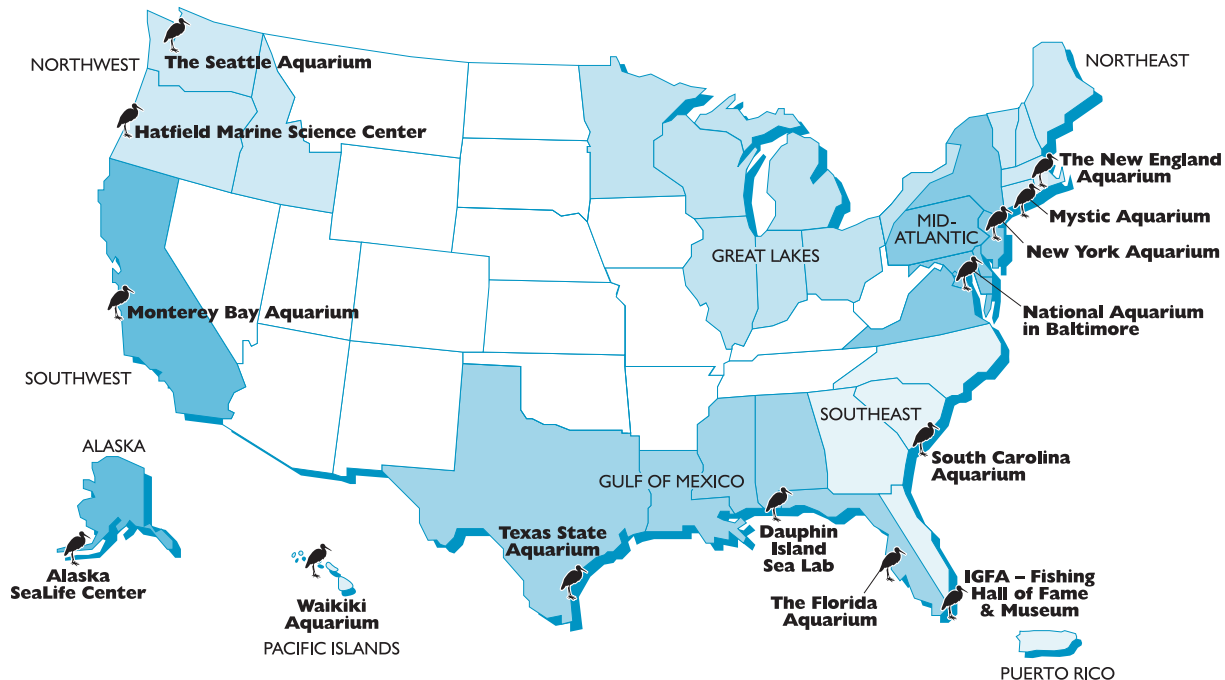
The Little Falls Fishway project opened up approximately 10 miles of historic spawning waters on the Potomac River to American shad, enhancing the potential for an active recreational fishery on the river. The Little Falls Dam is located just north of the District of Columbia. Because of its location, it effectively blocked anadromous fish stocks from their spawning grounds. An existing fishway located at Snake Island was never

successful in letting these fish pass upstream, but the new fishway was built using newer, more effective technology. The construction of the Little Falls Fishway was a cooperative effort between state and federal agencies: the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who are responsible for fish passage and dam operation, respectively. Many other federal and non-federal partners, such as the Virginia Depart-

ment of Game and Inland Fisheries and the District of Columbia, were involved because it is hoped that the fishway will restore American shad to the entire Potomac watershed.



*Ms. Tornblom presents the award to Colonel Charles Fiala, Commander and District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Steve Funderburk, Deputy Chief of Bird Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Virginia Tippie, Director of Coastal America, assisted with the presentation.*



## TWO NEW LEARNING CENTERS

Two new marine education facilities, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and the South Carolina Aquarium, recently joined Coastal America's Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) network.

### Dauphin Island Sea Lab

On January 16, 2001, Dauphin Island Sea Lab was designated as the 13<sup>th</sup> Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center in the national network. U.S. Congressman Sonny Callahan provided opening remarks reflecting his longstanding support for the Sea Lab and for the partnership that has been established between the Sea Lab and the Coastal America. General Van Winkle, Director of Civil Works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, served as the designating official and unveiled the Learning Center plaque with the help of Representative Callahan, Dr. George Crozier, Executive Director for the Sea Lab, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class from the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Each of the partner agencies, as well as the Gulf of Mexico Program Business Council, provided token gifts as a symbol of the long-term commitments made through the partnership. This was the first time the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and a corporate partner have participated in a Learning Center designation.



*Representatives from the partner agencies at the South Carolina Aquarium's designation ceremony.*

### South Carolina Aquarium

On February 5, 2001, the South Carolina Aquarium became the 14<sup>th</sup> Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center in the network. In his opening remarks, Governor Jim Hodges noted, "As a Coastal Learning Center, the South Carolina Aquarium will have access to a broad variety of speakers, experts and exhibits. Students will learn that our oceans and coastal areas are worth exploring ... and worth protecting." Senator Clementa Pinckney led the ceremony participants in an invocation recognizing the Learning Center's mission to help people be

good stewards of natural resources, and the Mayor of Charleston, Joseph Riley, recognized the Aquarium for its important role in revitalizing the city's waterfront in addition to being a premier educational facility. Students from Jennie Moore and Memminger Elementary Schools performed songs reflecting how the Aquarium has inspired them "to be responsible for the environment, to be powerful in their protection of it and to be joyful as they experience the wonder of this extraordinary Aquarium."

Margaret Davidson, Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration served as the designating official, signing the Memorandum of Understanding with Dr. Chris Andrews, Executive Director for the Aquarium. Together with Mayor Riley, they unveiled the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center plaque.

Other highlights of the ceremony were the statements of commitment and the presentation of token gifts by 13 representatives of the federal agency partners. This was the first time the Marine Corps has participated in a Learning Center designation.



*Agency representatives at the designation ceremony of Dauphin Island Sea Lab.*



## CELC UPDATES

### Gulf of Mexico CELC/RIT Meeting

Representatives from the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers – The Florida Aquarium, Texas State Aquarium and Dauphin Island Sea Lab – met in New Orleans with the co-chairs of the GMRIT, the Learning Center federal agency liaison for the Gulf Team, and the Coastal America Education/Outreach Coordinator to determine how to build a more effective partnership between the Learning Centers and the federal agencies in the Gulf of Mexico region. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Learning Centers participated in Gulf of Mexico Program focus team meetings and the Communications Committee meeting. This provided the opportunity to meet federal and state agency representatives working on nutrients, habitat, invasive species and public health issues, and to learn about specific projects underway to address these issues and where there might be education/outreach needs. A number of recommendations were raised, including:

- Improving federal agency and Learning Center coordination and communication on a local scale by identifying local federal agency points of contact for each Learning Center; and
- Facilitating Learning Center participation in the Gulf of Mexico Program annual workplan development and implementation process.

### Florida Aquarium

See Page 5 for a detailed description of the Florida Aquarium's Student Ocean Conference.

### Waikiki Aquarium

The Aquarium is supporting the local organizers of Reef Check, a community-based coral reef monitoring project, by providing classroom space for training sessions and access to the Aquarium's exhibits and staff expertise. Eventually, Reef Check will be conducting surveys and helping with other issues related to the Waikiki coral reef ecosystem. The Aquarium is supporting the City and County of Honolulu in its application for an EPA Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking grant. They hope to receive funding for a web-based public information system that monitors stream and storm-drain flow and involves a community-based watershed council for the Waikiki ahupua'a (watershed).

The Aquarium's lecture series is set, and two of the speakers are federal agency partners, representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Air Force has also been involved with the Aquarium, as four members of the Environmental Flight of Hickam Air Force Base attended the Aquarium's annual Teacher Workshop on Coral Reef Education in February, and another member participated in the Volunteer Interpreter Training and is currently volunteering at the Aquarium.

### Alaska SeaLife Center

The SeaLife Center and Kenai Fjords National Park have received federal funding for a science center to conduct cooperative research on marine ecosystems that connect with Southwestern Alaska national parks. This research will be interpreted for the public and public participation will be encouraged from the start. Funding is approximately \$650,000 per year in perpetuity, and the program will be open to additional partners over time.

### Seattle Aquarium

The Aquarium's newly redesigned Underwater Marine Mammal Viewing Room opened on March 9<sup>th</sup>. "All About Otters" tells the story of sea otters living on Washington's coast and at the Seattle Aquarium. Interactive elements for children and adults provide opportunities for hands-on exploration and insight into a sea otter's world. Visitors can compare an otter's diet and daily lifestyle to their own and discover a myriad of fascinating facts about these tool-using marine mammals. The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, which manages a program to reintroduce sea otters along the Washington coast, contributed funding, exhibit materials and technical expertise.



*The Student Ocean Conferences encourage students to consider real-life issues and career opportunities related to marine resource management.*



## Hatfield Marine Science Center

The Hatfield Marine Science Center has been working on the National Science Foundation Grant that supports the Center's curricula development for NOAA VENTS research on the Axial Volcano off the Oregon coast. The curricula is nearing completion and a teacher workshop is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> to introduce the research and the program. The curricula will be available on CD-ROM and will be provided to each teacher.

The Northwest co-chair, Jim Reese, conducted a site visit with Coastal America's Military Liaison, Colonel Schlossnagle, to the prospective Hatfield Marine Science Center wetland project. The Northwest Team is evaluating the availability of Air Force resources to help with the project.

## Texas State Aquarium

The Texas State Aquarium helped sponsor the Texas Ocean Science Bowl on March 2-3, 2001. Approximately 40 teams participated in the event, making it the largest Ocean Science Bowl in the country. The Aquarium met with the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Education Coordinator on March 16<sup>th</sup> to initiate planning for a Student Ocean Conference on November 29-30 2001.

## IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum

Gretel Porcaro has replaced Paula Yourst as the IGFA Education Coordinator. Gretel recently completed a dual masters in Marine Biology and Coastal Zone Management. Gretel has worked as an outdoor educational instructor in the Florida Everglades and has also taught special education and high school environmental science.

## National Aquarium in Baltimore

The National Aquarium in Baltimore worked with the Navy to help host the Chesapeake Bay Bowl. The Aquarium is looking to partner with the National Undersea Laboratory to provide students access to aquanauts on-line in real-time. In addition, they are pursuing funding from the Howard Hughes Foundation to develop an education program that involves sustained contact with Baltimore Public School students and teachers, and a component of the program will include the Fort McHenry field curriculum that is under development.

The Aquarium purchased an Enviro-scope coastal watershed model and is willing to let other Learning Centers borrow the model to determine if they may want to purchase their own. The same Enviro-scope model is also available from Gene Cope at National Marine Fisheries Service. In January, the Aquarium hosted a meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Federal Partners for the Environment, the interagency group that will serve as the Mid-Atlantic regional principals for Coastal America. Sylvia James, the Aquarium's former Education Director, has accepted a full-time position with the National Science Foundation.

## New York Aquarium

The New York Aquarium hosted a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center forum, "Exploring the Biological Significance of Subaqueous Borrow Pits" on February 8, 2001. Sponsors included the National Park Service, the Osborn Laboratory of Marine Science and the Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center.

## Mystic Aquarium

The Mystic Aquarium held a "Mostly Coastal" event on April 21-22, attracting over 7,000 visitors during the weekend. Partners from the Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection tended booths to educate the public about coastal problems and inform them about what is being done to solve those problems.

### CELC Contacts

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## REGIONAL UPDATES

### Southeast

On February 5, 2001, the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston was designated as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. Many of the Southeast Regional Implementation Team members and their agencies' regional principals were in attendance. A number of elected officials, including the Governor of South Carolina and the Mayor of Charleston, participated in the ceremony. This was an outstanding event that was heavily covered by local and regional media.

The Southeast Team met on March 13, 2001. During a portion of the meeting the Team conferenced with members of the Coastal America Office by phone regarding a number of current and upcoming activities. The Team continues to focus its efforts on supporting their Learning Centers, implementing the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership in the Southeast, and facilitating development and completion of partnership projects.

One project that the Team continues to support is a watershed signage initiative in Georgia. The Georgia Department of Transportation, in partnership with Federal Highway Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has printed over 100 highway signs (using an attractive watershed logo) to notify drivers that they are entering one of seventeen priority "impaired" watersheds in Georgia. Additional signs are available to local governments and watershed alliances at a nominal cost. Additionally, these watershed groups are currently developing aggressive education and outreach campaigns tied to the watershed logo. Federal land management partners have been asked to survey their lands for opportunities to place the watershed signs. The team eventually plans to augment this initiative with educational kiosks at visitor centers and in other venues. Recently, adjacent states (particularly Alabama) have expressed interest in using the watershed signs.

### Mid-Atlantic

At their Mid-Atlantic Regional Implementation Team meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, the Team officially established the Mid-Atlantic Federal Partners for the Environment (MAFPE) as their Regional principals group. The Federal Partners meet quarterly, and the Mid-Atlantic Team will provide an update of their actions and present project proposals at MAFPE meetings on a bi-annual basis. This partnership of efforts aims to make coastal partnerships in the Mid-Atlantic region even more effective than they currently are. The Team co-chairs briefed the Mid-Atlantic National Estuary Programs on this merger with the MAFPE. They encouraged the Estuary Programs to use the Team to facilitate support from the appropriate federal agencies as they implement their Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans.

### Northeast

During the winter of 2000/2001 the Northeast Regional Implementation Team concentrated on initiating projects and supporting the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership and Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers. Projects such as the Dingley Island Causeway and Bangor Water Works in Maine, the Mass/Cape Cod Bays General Investigation, and several other efforts were the subject of numerous meetings. The Team was active in a variety of Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership events, including presentations at the Rhode Island Environmental Business Council and the Association of Construction Contractors in Maine.

The New England Aquarium successfully hosted a Student Ocean Conference and an Environmental Leadership program with support from the Coastal America partners. The EPA research vessel *OSV Anderson* took teachers, scientists and specialists from EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Coast Guard on a

"hands-on" training day to show the teachers some field techniques used in marine science. The Mystic Aquarium held a "Mostly Coastal" event that attracted over 7,000 people over the course of the weekend. Coastal America tended a booth, as did partners from NOAA, Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and over 20 other organizations.

Ongoing work on the Town Pond (Boyd's) Marsh in RI and the Broad Meadows Marsh in Quincy, MA will result in the next two large salt marsh restorations in the New England area. In Maine the use of the abandoned Bangor Water Works building as an anadromous fisheries education center is in the early stage of development. As the field season begins, it is anticipated that the Team will be conducting site visits throughout various watersheds, in support of habitat restoration projects. In particular an early visit is scheduled to the sites identified by the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program.

On January 31, 2001 Bob Wengrzynek, CWO2 Greg Wojciechowski, and Colonel Schlossnagle met with City of Bangor officials, including the Mayor, to discuss if the military can provide support to the city under the military's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program. The hope is that renovation of the Bangor Waterworks can be completed as an IRT project. A delegation from Bangor visited two similar IRT project sites on the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C. to see first hand the Navy's work on such a project. While in Maine, Colonel Schlossnagle and CWO2 Wojciechowski met with representatives from the Dingley Island Causeway Project and the Kennebec Coalition to discuss the Fort Halifax Dam Project. All of these projects appeared to be potential military training opportunities.

## Pacific Islands

The Pacific Islands Regional Implementation Team met in February. John Emmerson has taken a new assignment and will no longer co-chair the Team. Tim Young, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division will temporarily step in to co-chair the team with John Naughton, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service. There was some further discussion of the review process for potential Coastal America projects and the issues of adequate public notice to ensure all potential projects have the opportunity to be considered.

## Alaska

In February, the Alaska Team hosted a Coastal America session at the Alaska Forum on the Environment, and took part in series of presentations about Coastal America's new initiatives. In addition, the Team arranged meetings for Coastal America's military liaison and Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership representatives to brief interested parties about these initiatives. They also organized field trips to potential military and CWRP project sites near Anchorage, including several dam removal sites along Ship Creek. The Team discussed potential IRT projects with Colonel Schlossnagle, including the Lower Eklutna Dam Demolition and Restoration of the Olga Bay Fish Cannery. In addition, the Coast Guard and the Alaska National Guard became new members of the Alaska Team's Military Subcommittee. Mike Roy, USFWS, has replaced Jeanne Hanson as co-chair of the AKRIT so that she can spend more time working with the CELC.

## Northwest

The Northwest Regional Implementation Team held a meeting to finalize their current project list and their criteria for choosing projects. In March, a military contingent led by Colonel Schlossnagle met in Medford, Oregon to evaluate the potential for military Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) projects along the Rogue River. Corky Lockard of the Rogue Valley Council of Governments hosted the meeting and field trip, and Mark Patterson participated as the Chair of the Northwest Team's Military Subcommittee. Navy and Air Force representatives from Hawaii and Georgia were invited to visit the Gold Hill Dam and met with town representatives to discuss how the military might assist with the demolition of the obsolete dam and powerplant. In addition, the military representatives evaluated the potential for IRT projects to make repairs to the Jacksonville Dam near Jacksonville, Washington. This visit was covered by the local newspapers and television stations.

## Southwest

The Southwest Regional Implementation Team met in San Francisco in February. The meeting focused on how the Team can help with the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project which consists of approximately 45 sites. The Team determined that some of the sites are good candidates for Coastal America or Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership projects. Other developments include nominating the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific for designation as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center and a military collaboration involving helicopter transport of dredging equipment.

## Gulf of Mexico

The Gulf of Mexico Program Management Committee (GMP) serves as the Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team. The Team hosted the 2001 Annual Retreat in New Orleans, and worked closely with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program to organize a group field trip as part of the Retreat.

The Team is trying to expand its membership to include DOE and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Gulf of Mexico Program Office (GMPO) is considering funding the Fort DeSoto/Hillsborough County, FL project involving the removal of earthen-filled causeways to re-establish tidal circulation in order to improve water quality and seagrass growing conditions. Proponents include Hillsborough County, a Florida water management district and the Tampa National Estuary Program. The GMPO is also recommending that the GMP champion the Florida Aquarium's request for financial support to establish a program to culture coral as an educational and restoration tool as a 5-Star project.

In February, a Pensacola planning group met to discuss Coastal America partnership project opportunities. As a result, in March the Navy submitted a proposal for the partial restoration of a bog. Initial proponents are Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Navy, and potentially the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. In late March, the GMPO hosted a meeting attended by representatives of the Navy, the State of Louisiana and the New Orleans District Army Corps of Engineers. The purposes of the meeting were: 1) for the Navy to brief the state and Corps folks about the Navy's predictive model of selected water quality attributes in portions of the near and in-shore coasts of Alabama, Mississippi and a small portion of Louisiana's nearshore coastal waters; and, 2) for the state and Corps to assess the added value of partnering with the Navy to extend the bounds of the model. Such a model will produce graphics depicting hydrodynamic linkages between the eastern and western portions of the Gulf.

### Regional Chairs

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>June 28</b>	Maine CWRP Advisory Board Meeting; Portland, ME
<b>July 15-19</b>	Coastal Zone Management Conference '01; Cleveland, OH
<b>July 16</b>	Coastal America Workshop at CZ; Cleveland, OH
<b>July 19</b>	CELC meeting at National Marine Educator's Association; Victoria, BC
<b>September 7</b>	CELC Executive Directors' meeting at American Zoos and Aquaria Conference; St. Louis, MO
<b>October 2</b>	Coastal America 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event; Washington, DC
<b>October 17-19</b>	NW/AK CELC Workshop at the Seattle Aquarium; Seattle, WA
<b>October 24-25</b>	NE/MA CELC Workshop at the National Aquarium in Baltimore; MD
<b>November 29-30</b>	Student Ocean Conference at the Texas State Aquarium; Corpus Christi, TX
<b>December 11</b>	Student Ocean Conference at the Mystic Aquarium; Mystic, CT

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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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