



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

Volume 13 • Number 3 • FALL 2001

*“Once again, my sincerest thanks to each of you.
Your continuing effort is invaluable to our nation’s economy
and to our coastal heritage.”*

Former President George H.W. Bush video remarks
(See story, pg 4)

Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award

The Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award was presented to Leon Panetta during the evening portion of Coastal America’s 10th Anniversary Celebration. Congressional and Administration leaders gathered to present the award to Mr. Panetta and to congratulate Coastal America on a Decade of Success (see story, pg 9).



From left: Virginia Tippie, Director, Coastal America; Senator Lincoln Chafee (RI); Jim Connaughton, Chairman, Council Environmental Quality; Leon Panetta, former White House Chief of Staff and Chair, Pew Oceans Commission; Norman Mineta, Secretary, Department of Transportation; Congressman Sam Farr (CA); and Senator Bob Smith (NH).

10th Anniversary Celebration

Jim Connaughton, Chair of Coastal America and Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, kicked off our October 2, 2001 10th Anniversary Celebration in Washington D.C. with a video welcome from

former President George H.W. Bush. Partners from across the agencies, from the past and from the present, gathered together for the day. It was a chance to honor and thank those who have forged the current success of Coastal America,

and a chance to give direction to the partnership as it looks towards the decade ahead (see story, pg 6).



Looking to the Future: Leaders from Coastal America’s partner agencies comprised one of the briefing sessions (see story, pg 8).
From left: Scott Gudes, Diane Regas, P. Lynn Scarlett, Michael Parker, and Sam Bodman.

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OCTOBER PRINCIPAL'S MEETING

On October 1, eleven Coastal America Principals met at the first Principal's meeting of the new Administration. Jim Connaughton, Chair of Coastal America and Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, noted that the Administration is looking for ways to replicate the success of Coastal America in a broader context to address a number of critical coastal issues. The five main focus areas in this Administration's environmental policy are right in-line with Coastal America's efforts: stewardship and empowering local stakeholders, innovation, science based decision-making, federalism and local involvement, and compliance. They will direct their energies on water, watersheds, fish, and wetlands. The business of the Principal's meeting included briefings on the partnership process, our achievements, and the new directions Coastal America is heading with the Learning Centers and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. The Principals voted to accept the nomination of the Aquarium of the Pacific, in Long Beach, CA, as the 15th Learning Center in the network. They also made the long-awaited and difficult decision on the 2000 Coastal America Partnership Awards.



Congratulations!

2001 Partnership Awards

- East Machias Dam Removal, ME (NERIT)
- Cooper River Fishway Restoration, NJ (MARIT)
- Charleston Air Force Base Offshore Reef Project, SC (SERIT)
- Galveston Island State Park Marsh Restoration, TX (GMRIT)
- Girl Scouts Rehabilitation Station Program, AK (AKRIT)
- San Diego Bay Natural Resources Management Plan and Habitat Restoration, CA (SWRIT)

Special Recognition Award

- Maritime & Northeast Pipeline, ME (Maine Corporate Partnership)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS MEETING

The Executive Directors of the Learning Centers, or designees from their staff, met on September 10th in conjunction with the American Zoo and Aquarium Association national conference. The meeting was an opportunity to check in with the Learning Center directors and to update them on the progress that is being made by the net-

work. A number of proposed initiatives were discussed, and the group supported the suggestion to develop collaborations between the Student Ocean Conferences and the National Ocean Commission. They also agreed to help find useful synergies between the Learning Center network and The Ocean Project.



Jim Reese (NW co-Chair) presented Bob Steelquist (National Marine Sanctuaries Program) with the Coastal America Leadership Award at the Northwest and Alaska Regional Workshop (see story, pg 11). The award recognized Bob's pivotal role in shaping the structure of the Student Ocean Conferences and helping the Team to work more effectively with the Learning Centers.

CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

National

The National Advisory Council convened a meeting on October 2, 2001, in Washington, DC. The Chairs of the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Teams, and a representative of the Maine CWRP joined the Council members. Updates were given about the Coastal America Foundation and CWRP activities around the country, and the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Team chairs expressed an interest in initiating the CWRP in their regions. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to recruitment issues, namely on expanding membership at the national level and on increasing the number of functioning state programs. In particular, the Council is considering developing a formalized marketing plan and hiring a part-time consultant to assist in recruitment activities. The Council will meet again in January 2002.

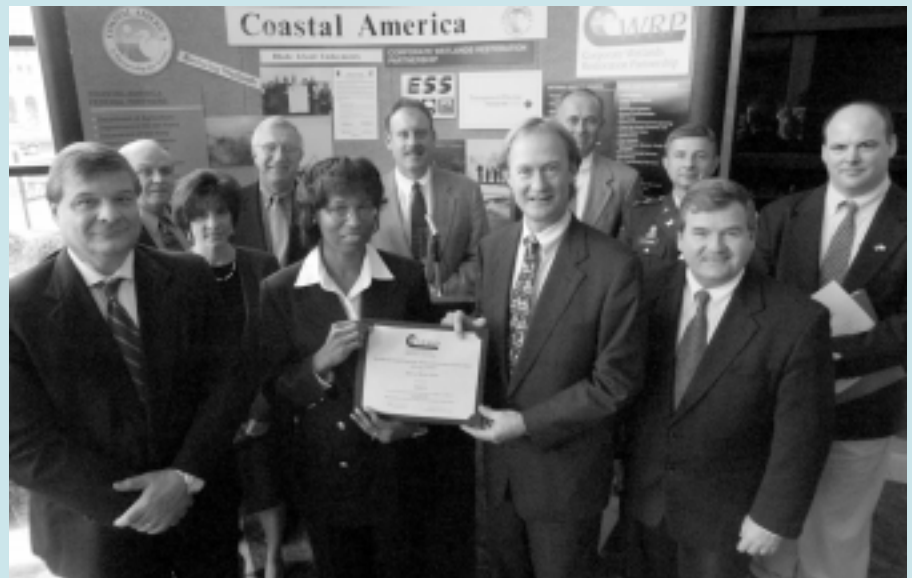
Alaska: BP Exploration is serving as the lead for the CWRP in Alaska and will be organizing a kick-off event sometime this winter. **Maine:** The Maine CWRP now includes eleven partners. The Advisory Board approved nine projects for funding, several of which have already been initiated. In particular, the shoreline stabilization project in East Machias, which is an extension of the Air Force removal of the town's obsolete dam, was completed in early October. In addition, the Advisory Board formed a Membership Development Task Force and a Marketing Task Force to increase participation and visibility for the program. **Connecticut:** The CT CWRP is meeting on November 16 to strategize about

the future of their state CWRP. The Northeast Regional Implementation Team will meet with existing corporate partners as well as interested companies, NGOs, and universities to brainstorm recruitment techniques and to review potential project lists. **Massachusetts:** The MA CWRP includes 24 corporate partners and 26 non-profit partners. The program is supporting 23 projects, and will be recommending an additional 14 projects in the near future. The state's Advisory Board will be increasing the number of corporate partners by four at their fall meeting. **Rhode Island:** On October 22, Rhode Island hosted a kick-off event to establish the CWRP in their state (see story below).

Rhode Island Kickoff

The Rhode Island Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) co-chaired by Narragansett Electric and Environmental Science Services, was formally announced at a ceremony on October 22, 2001, in Providence. The RI CWRP will combine corporate contributions with federal and state matching funds to restore degraded coastal and freshwater wetlands in the Ocean State. In particular, they will support projects that have been identified by the Rhode Island Habitat Restoration Team. Over 50 businesses attended the kickoff event where they were briefed about the program.

Senator Lincoln Chafee participated in the event, as did senior government officials from local, state, regional, and federal levels, business leaders, and representatives of the RI Department of Environmental Management, the RI Coastal Resources Management Council, Save the Bay, and Coastal America. EPA Regional Administrator Bob Varney pledged an initial challenge grant and US Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer Colonel Brian E. Osterndorf spoke of the numerous Corps programs conducting restoration in the state. Applied Science Associates, Arch Chemical and Battelle were the first to join the RI CWRP.



In his ongoing support of the Coastal America partnership, Senator Lincoln Chafee (RI) welcomed businesses, non-governmental organizations, and federal agencies to the newly established Rhode Island Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Northeast

The East Machias Dam Removal in Maine was selected to receive a 2000 Partnership Award, and Maritime & Northeast Pipeline was selected for the Special Recognition Award for their efforts to implement the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) in Maine. Bill Hubbard (Chair) and another Team member participated in the Anniversary Celebration and the associated meetings held around that event. Members of the Team also traveled to the National Aquarium in Baltimore for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regional workshop. The Team is gearing up for a large project in the Massachusetts Cape Cod Bay area, and they are continuing their leadership role with the CWRP (see story pg 3).

On a special note, Bill Hubbard and John MacKenzie (Gillette Company and National CWRP) headed to Kennebunkport, Maine on September 15th to the doorstep of the Bush Residence. They were invited in for coffee and spent nearly two hours with former President George H.W. Bush as he filmed his welcoming remarks for Coastal America's 10th Anniversary Celebration. The video was aired at the beginning of the 10th Anniversary Briefings and again at the start of the Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award Ceremony (see pg. 6) Needless to say, it was a rare but very fruitful effort for the Northeast Team! Please visit www.coastalamerica.gov to view the video.



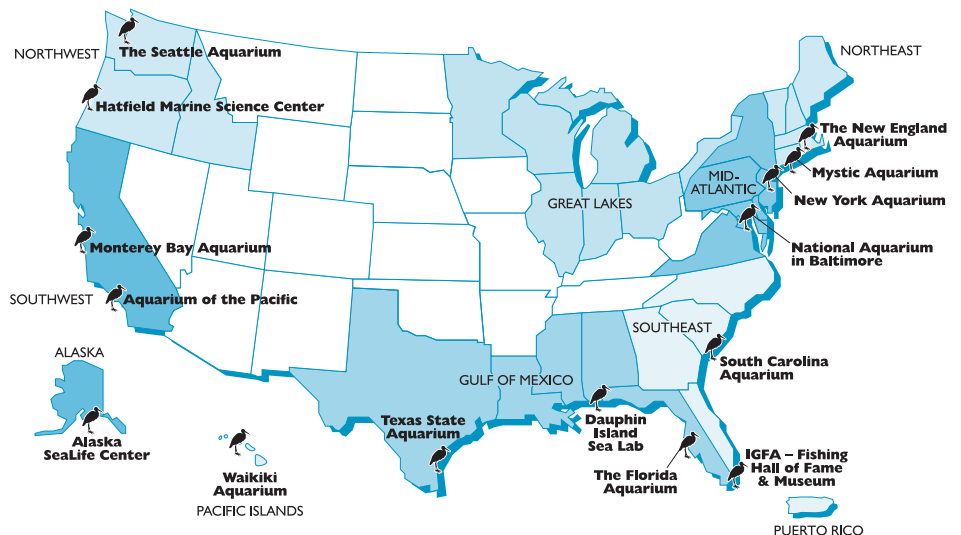
Filming the former President's words of praise for the Coastal America partnership.

Mid-Atlantic

The Cooper River Fishway Restoration project in New Jersey was selected to receive a 2000 Partnership Award. Members from the Mid-Atlantic Team, including John Wright (Chair) participated in the regional workshop held at the National Aquarium in Baltimore on October 24-25. The workshop provided the opportunity to continue identifying the best means of support between the Learning Centers and the Team. The Team co-chair, Mario DelVicario, participated in Coastal America's 10th Anniversary Celebration and the associated meetings held around that event.

Southeast

The Charleston Air Force Base Offshore Reef Project in South Carolina was selected to receive a 2000 Partnership Award, and the Southeast Team has begun planning for the award ceremony. The Team met on October 23, 2001, and key discussion items at the meeting included: development of Local Support Teams and business plans for each of the designated Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC); potential additions to the CELC network; CWRP opportunities in the Southeast; and potential partnership projects with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and local/territorial officials in St. Croix, VI (Great Pond Bay Protection/Restoration). Dennis Barnett, Chair of the Southeast Team, and David Holland, Deputy Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Southern Region, represented the Southeast Team at the 10th Anniversary Celebration and its associated meetings.





In April, the Southwest Team met with the Aquarium President and CEO, Warren Iliff, for a site visit of the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, CA. The Aquarium was approved as the 15th Learning Center at the October Principal's meeting.

Gulf of Mexico

The Galveston Island State Park Marsh Restoration team in Texas was selected to receive a 2000 Partnership Award. A 1999 Partnership Award-winning restoration project at Breton Island, LA, continues to receive press coverage in the region. The ongoing effort to restore the fragile island is a refreshing success story in a region whose coastal areas are rapidly being lost. The Gulf of Mexico Management Committee and GMRIT met October 17-18 to select their 2002 project list and set goals for 2003 and 2004. The Committee, which doubles as

the Coastal America Regional Team, helped secure financial support for salt marsh and oyster reef restoration work called Project Greenshores. The Team championed the project and received grants from the Gulf of Mexico Program Office and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The CWRP is beginning to take form in the Gulf Region, as Duke Energy is becoming involved with a project in the Galveston Bay area. In light of the current world situation, the Pascagoula project, which had been progressing quickly, is uncertain due to its reliance on military support.

Southwest

The San Diego Bay Natural Resources Management Plan and Habitat Restoration team in California was selected to receive a 2000 Partnership Award. The award will be presented during the Navy Natural Resources Management Conference in mid December. The other big news for the Southwest Team was the approval of their nomination for the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific to become the 15th Learning Center in the network. The Team is holding a series of teleconferences to plan for the designation ceremony and to prepare a strategy for partnering with the new Learning Center.

Northwest

A Northwest Team meeting was held on October 17, 2001 in conjunction with the regional meeting held at the Seattle Aquarium. A number of Team members participated in the workshop and helped further develop the relationship between the team and their Learning Centers.

Alaska

The Girl Scouts Rehabilitation Station Program in Alaska was selected to receive a 2000 Partnership Award. Mike Roy, Team co-chair, participated in Coastal America's 10th Anniversary Celebration and the associated team meetings. The Alaska Team is beginning to work with BP Exploration, the new state lead of the Corporate Partnership, to identify and participate in restoration projects throughout the state.

Regional Chairs

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GREAT LAKES

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10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

“Ten years ago, Coastal America was a fledgling concept. Today, it soars as a dynamic and highly effective collaboration that is unmatched anywhere else in government.”

– Mike Deland

Our 10th Anniversary Celebration was a great success and we were thrilled to see so many familiar faces. It was a reunion of the dedicated individuals who have made Coastal America such a strong model of multi-agency, multi-stakeholder collaboration.

There was a strong turnout at the event, with bipartisan support from the Congressional level, and many key guests from all of our partner organizations. The day’s events illustrated not only the partnership’s success over the last 10 years, but also the level of commitment that we will see in the years to come.



Thanks to our Partners!

The celebration provided a chance to thank all those members of the Coastal America family: the Chairs, the principals, the national and regional teams, the learning centers, the corporate partners, the NGOs, and everyone else in between. If we could have, we would have shipped in all our team members from around the country, for it really is all of you who put the shovels in the ground and keep the partnership in motion. Thanks for an outstanding ten years and we look forward to another decade of success!

A full house of partners gathered for the award ceremony and reception.



The Chairs of Coastal America with Leon Panetta at the evening Award ceremony.

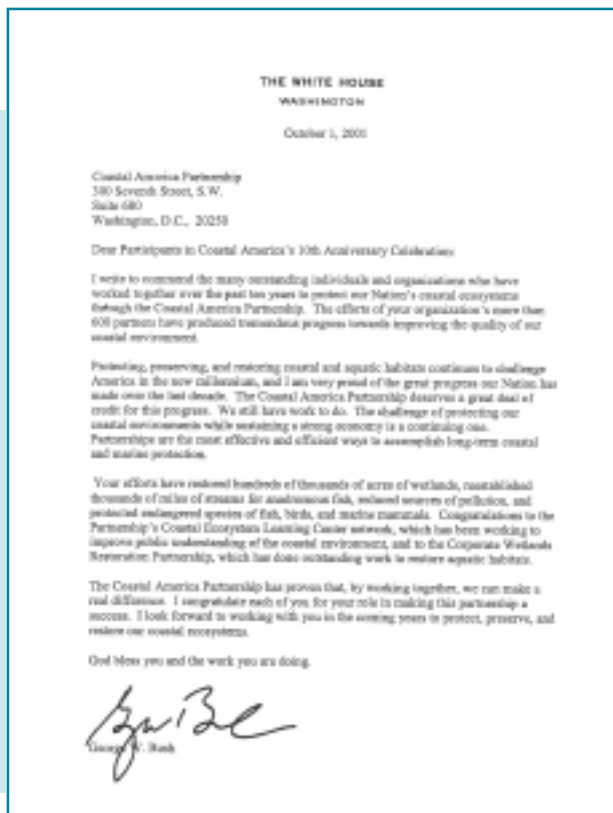
From left: Bob Perciasepe, Terry Garcia, Mr. Panetta, Mike Deland, Jim Connaughton. (Former Chairs Dr. James Baker and Dr. Joseph Westphal were unable to attend.)

A Letter from the President

The Anniversary Celebration was set in motion with a letter from the President of the United States, George W. Bush, commending *“the many outstanding individuals and organizations who have worked together...to protect our nation’s coastal ecosystems.”*

A Welcome from the former President

Former President Bush, under whom Coastal America was created, greeted and congratulated the partners in a videotaped speech filmed by the Northeast Team at the Bush residence in Maine. The video was aired at the beginning of the 10th Anniversary Briefings and again at the start Award Ceremony. Please visit www.coastalamerica.gov to view the video.



BRIEFINGS

The Coastal America Partnership Process

The briefings opened with a session tracing the history of the Coastal America Partnership. Jim Connaughton, Chair of Coastal America and Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, moderated the session. Senator Ted Stevens (AK) reflected on his support of the partnership's first project, the restoration of the Kenai River, and how the project has inspired more than 100 additional projects on the river. Michael Deland, former Chair of CEQ

and the first Chair of Coastal America (1991-1992), gave an account of how Coastal America succeeded in bringing agencies together to collaborate around common issues. Bob Perciasepe, former Assistant Administrator of EPA and Chair of Coastal America (1995-1998), described the Coastal America structure and the role each level of the organization plays in contributing to the success of the partnership.

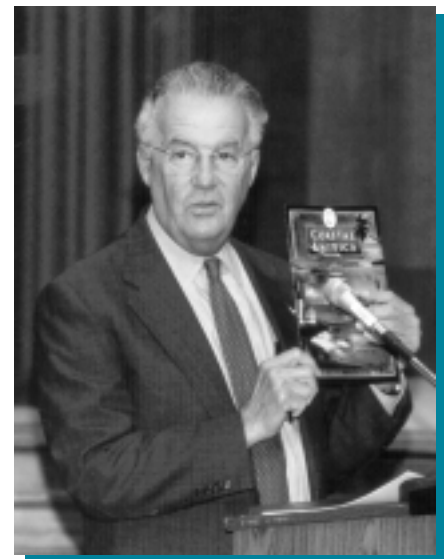
The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network

Terry Garcia, Former Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Chair of Coastal America (1998-1999) moderated the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center discussion panel. He explained that by merging the resources of the federal agencies with the outstanding outreach capabilities of the marine education centers, Coastal America has enhanced both the agencies' and the Centers' effectiveness in reaching out to their communities. David Pittenger, Executive Director of the National Aquarium in Baltimore, expanded on the details of Learning Center activities. He outlined a number of projects that they are working on with Coastal America's federal partners. Sylvia Earle, Explorer in Residence at the National Geographic Society, inspired the audience with descriptions of coastal resources and the many roles they play

in our lives: economic, recreational, medical, inspirational and more. She reminded us that "with knowing comes caring, and with caring, there's hope that we will find a place for ourselves, an enduring place, within the natural systems that sustain us and support us." Finally, Senator Paul Sarbanes (MD) closed the session with remarks about the importance of joining together the strengths of all stakeholders to restore and protect our coastal resources. He talked about the severity of the problems facing our coasts, emphasizing MD's issues with the Chesapeake Bay, but noted the great strides that have been made in the region thanks largely to public education. The Learning Centers, he said, are facilitating such important projects around the country.



Senator Ted Stevens (AK) represented the partnership's first-ever project – restoration on the Kenai River.



Senator Paul Sarbanes (MD) underscored the critical role that education and awareness play in protecting our coastal resources.



From left: Terry Garcia, Dr. Sylvia Earle, and David Pittenger spoke about the value and achievements of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers.

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership

Sally Yozell, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans, moderated the session on Coastal America's newest initiative, the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). She recalled how her work as a Coastal America Principal had inspired her to become a member of the CWRP National Advisory Council. The keynote was provided by the Honorable Wayne Gilchrest (MD), and included a passionate expression on the value of public-private partnerships. Keith McCoy, Manager of Environmental Quality for the National Association of Manufacturers, spoke about the role that businesses are now playing in environmental protection and restoration, and John MacKenzie, Director of Environmental Affairs of The Gillette Company, provided a brief history of the CWRP's development and an overview of the program's success. Pat Hester, Senior Vice President and General Council of Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline wrapped up the session, emphasizing the key "win-win benefits" that the CWRP brings to the table.



Congressman Gilchrest spoke about the value of the Corporate Partnership and the opportunities it provides. Members of the national CWRP Advisory Council outlined the CWRP process and its benefits. From left: Pat Hester, Sally Yozell, John MacKenzie, and Keith McCoy.

Looking to the Future

The day's briefings ended with a session on "Looking to the Future" of the Coastal America partnership. Sam Bodman, Deputy Secretary of Commerce, moderated the session, and challenged the federal agencies to lead by example in establishing coastal policy. Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget for the Department of Interior, outlined the role

they have played in the Coastal America partnership and emphasized the need for communication, consultation and cooperation as we work to protect and restore our valuable natural resources. Michael Parker, Assistant Secretary of Army for Civil Works, highlighted the importance of seeking partnership opportunities on all levels of our communities. Diane Regas, Deputy Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Water, talked about EPA's commitment to playing a greater role in helping the public to understand how their actions affect the coasts. She emphasized the need to build more partnerships at the local and regional levels and with nontraditional groups. The last speaker, Scott Gudes, Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere for the Department of Commerce, spoke about the need to increase efforts in public education and community-based restoration. All of these speakers noted their continued support for the Coastal America process, as inter-agency partnerships become more frequently acknowledged as the most effective means of restoring and protecting our coastal resources.



Coastal America's partner agencies discussed their vision for and support of the Partnership. From left: Sam Bodman, Diane Regas, P. Lynn Scarlett, Michael Parker, and Scott Gudes.

AWARD CEREMONY and RECEPTION

In what turned out to be a light-hearted and spirited ceremony, Coastal America's Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award was presented to Leon Panetta, Chair of the Pew Oceans Commission and former White House Chief of Staff (1994-1997). The award is presented to an individual who

displays exceptional initiative in restoring and protecting our nation's coastal resources. Mr. Panetta has provided outstanding leadership as Chair of the Pew Oceans Commission and in his many years of service to our nation. We were honored by significant bipartisan participation in the ceremony, as we celebrated

the contributions made to our coastal environment by Mr. Panetta, by the late Senator Chafee, and by the Coastal America Partnership.

Senator Lincoln Chafee (RI) spoke about the significance of the Award, and Senator Bob Smith (NH) gave a warm account of the former Senator Chafee's environmental legacy. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta and Congressmen Sam Farr (CA) introduced Mr. Panetta, describing his commitment to ensuring wise use of our nation's coastal resources. Mr. Panetta gave an inspiring speech, noting the significance of partnerships and commending the ongoing efforts of our partners. All of the speakers spoke encouragingly about the Coastal America process and the crosscutting vision upon which the partnership was founded.

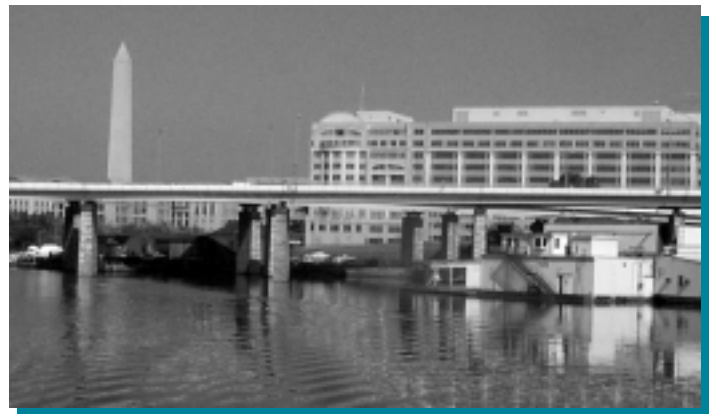


The Award ceremony truly was a grand celebration! From left: Senator Smith, Secretary Mineta, Mr. Panetta, Senator Chafee.

Riverboat Eco-tour

On Wednesday, October 3rd, over fifty partners boarded the *Celebrity* and embarked on an eco-tour of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. Experts from several Coastal America partner organizations talked about environmental concerns involving these two rivers and the surrounding watershed. Representatives from the Earth Conservation Corps, the Anacostia Watershed Society, the Alexandria Seaport Foundation and the Potomac River Navigator also shared their insights on this American Heritage River system. The eco-tour allowed participants to see first hand the conditions that impact our coasts, the progress that has been made, and the challenges that still remain. The group was also asked to expand upon a Coastal America and Coastal States Organization exercise from Coastal Zone '01, during which participants of a joint luncheon had identified key issues for a national coastal policy. During the eco-tour, the group narrowed down the list created at CZ01 to the following top issues of concern (see below):

Coastal America partners toured the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers aboard the Celebrity.



Key Issues to be Addressed in a National Ocean Policy

- Population growth, sprawl, land-use planning, development, re-development
- Habitat loss, hydrologic modifications
- Point and non-point source pollution, stormwater management
- Public education, outreach and involvement

LEARNING CENTER UPDATES

The Bad News and the Good News

First, the Bad News. We are sad to report that after 2½ years as the Education and Outreach Coordinator, Betsy Salter's detail at Coastal America has ended and she has returned to EPA. Betsy contributed greatly to the growth and strength of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers and we extend our thanks and a fond farewell. Now, the Good News. A new Education and Outreach Coordinator has joined us, Nancy New. Nancy is also from EPA and has many years of education and outreach experience working with federal, state and local governments, and the public and private sectors. We look forward to having her on board for the next two years.

Learning Center Contacts

| | |
|---|--------------|
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Alaska SeaLife Center

The SeaLife Center is serving as a JASON uplink during the 2002 "Frozen World" program running January 28 - February 8. The Center is also planning for their Student Ocean Conference in 2002, which may qualify for an education grant from the State of Alaska's Coastal Impact Assistance Program. Representatives from the SeaLife Center traveled to Seattle to participate in the Northwest and Alaska Regional Workshop.

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

The Sea Lab hosted its open house in conjunction with Coast Weeks on September 22nd. Activities such as guided tours of the labs and fun-stuffs for kids, focused on the value of coasts and watersheds. The Sea Lab recently received a grant from National Sea Grant to continue and expand their invasive species workshops for teachers and students. They have offered to share some of their work with other Learning Centers, and a representative from the Hatfield Marine Science Center will use some of the material at national invasive species conferences to promote the Learning Centers as excellent venues for educating the public about the issue.

Hatfield Marine Science Center

The Science Center hosted Estuaries Day activities for visitors, including an EPA airboat demonstration. Salmon Saturday was held on October 20th with field trips, guest speakers, and other educational opportunities for the public. Members of the Science Center participated in the Northwest and Alaska Regional Workshop. They have scheduled their Student Ocean Conference for February 2002, and are in the initial phase of planning for the event.

IGFA

Estuary Day events were planned with Sea Grant for Broward County Schools on September 28th and 29th. Students and teachers learned about the importance of estuaries as essential fish habitats, and teachers found new methods to implement watershed conservation. They also had the chance to go on virtual field trips around the country, through the "Estuaries Live!" interactive web program. Sea Grant is also working with IGFA to provide monthly venting demonstrations and shark lectures. The IGFA recently completed their eight-week Wetland Naturalist Program with the Audubon Society. They also hosted a Greenways and Trails "Nature Walk and Talk" workshop with the Florida DEP on October 16th, which aimed to encourage residents to take full advantage of their local green spaces. IGFA received a touch tank from the USFWS and would like to use it in an outreach education program conveying the importance of mangrove, seagrass and coral reef habitats. A handful of Learning Centers in the network have offered technical assistance to get the tank up and running. IGFA is a registered JASON Project site, and will host 500-700 students for the broadcast and lab session.

Mystic Aquarium

Mystic Aquarium is gearing up to host the 5th national Student Ocean Conference, to be held on December 11th. The pre-conference teacher workshop was held on November 10th. The themes of the Conference will be: restoration of wild populations, habitat, and the use of technology in addressing these issues. Representatives from the Aquarium traveled to Baltimore to attend the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regional Workshop on October 24-25.

National Aquarium in Baltimore

On September 5, the Baltimore Aquarium co-sponsored a training workshop with EPA and Tetra Tech, Inc. titled "Getting in Step: A Pathway to Effective Outreach in Your Watershed." The workshop targeted citizens, watershed associations, and local governments to help them create and conduct effective education and outreach. Later that month, they hosted a restoration Field Day at the Fort McHenry field station - volunteers gathered to remove debris and plant native vegetation at the site. This quarterly event is a great way to keep the restoration process underway, and has generated a lot of enthusiasm by the Aquarium Conservation Team (ACT!). The Aquarium also hosted the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regional Workshop on October 24-25.

New York Aquarium

The New York Aquarium worked with the EPA to host a Local Government Workshop on October 2-3. Forty participants turned out for the meetings, which focused on tools and strategies to improve watershed management. The Conference received great feedback, and participants enjoyed the setting of an Aquarium and appreciated the chance to incorporate the Aquarium's resources, such as a behind-the-scenes tour, into the workshop's educational focus.

The Seattle Aquarium

The Seattle Aquarium played host to a broad range of federal and Learning Center representatives on October 18-19 during the Northwest and Alaska Regional Workshop.

South Carolina Aquarium

The South Carolina Aquarium is partnering with the US Forest Service to develop an interactive kiosk, focused on the Coastal Plain of South Carolina. The kiosk will identify key regional species and their conservation status, and provide options for public action. The goal of the project is to increase awareness and public participation in Coastal Plain conservation initiatives. The Aquarium has also been working on plans to host a Student Ocean Conference in February 2002. In addition, they anticipate having a U.S. Geological Survey water testing station and visitor display system later in 2002. They have had some exciting help from their partner agencies on Deep Sea Exploration exhibitry. NOAA's Deep East Ocean Exploration Initiative brought four research vessels to the Aquarium and the public was invited to tour the vessels and learn about the details of the Exploration.

Texas State Aquarium

The Texas State Aquarium is working with Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary on plans to host the 4th Student Ocean Conference, to be held November 29-30 at the Aquarium.

Waikiki

The U.S. Navy is again offering the Waikiki Aquarium an opportunity to coordinate a tour of a Navy vessel for the 2002 Pacific High School Symposium on Science & Sustainability. If coordination with the Symposium's organizers doesn't work out, the Navy has offered to have the vessel available for other educational field trips in the near future. Looking ahead into 2002 and beyond, the Aquarium is investigating possible partnerships with the University of Hawaii's Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program for managing marine education programs and exhibits at the Bay. The oldest of Hawaii's marine reserves, Hanauma Bay, hosts approximately one million visitors each year. The Aquarium is also slated to be included in a new University of Hawaii interdisciplinary degree program, called Hui Konohiki, which will include scientific methods and Hawaiian/Pacific cultural perspectives in training students for careers in resource management.

LEARNING CENTER MEETINGS

Northwest and Alaska Regional Workshop

On October 18-19, the Seattle Aquarium hosted a workshop for the Northwest and Alaska Learning Centers and regional teams. Attendees included representatives from the Aquarium of the Pacific, Seattle Aquarium, Alaska SeaLife Center, Hatfield Marine Science Center, NMFS, NPS, BLM, USACE, National Marine Sanctuaries Program, US Forest Service, Alaska State Coastal Management Program, Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, and the Whale Museum. Discussions focused on identifying opportunities for collaboration and how to better use the resources available through the Coastal America partnership. Participants were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Aquarium.

Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regional Workshop

The National Aquarium in Baltimore hosted a workshop on October 24-25 for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regional teams and Learning Centers. Participants included representatives from the New England, Mystic, and Baltimore Aquariums, NMFS, NOS, Chesapeake Bay Program, USFWS, USCG, Maryland Coastal Bays Program, USCOE, EPA Region III, and Maine Coastal Program State Planning Office. Discussions during the two-day meeting focused on ways for Learning Centers to collaborate on issues such as marine mammal stranding, habitat restoration, invasive species, and technology transfer. The group also recommended developing a strategic plan for the Learning Centers. Participants enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the Aquarium.

Calendar of Events

- Nov. 29-30** Texas State Aquarium Student Ocean Conference; Corpus Christi, TX
- Dec. 6** Maine Wetlands and Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline Award Ceremony; Wells, ME
- Dec. 7** Aquarium of the Pacific Designation Ceremony; Long Beach, CA
- Dec. 11** Mystic Aquarium Student Ocean Conference; Mystic, CT
- Dec. 13** San Diego Partnership Award; San Diego, CA
- Feb. 22** Hatfield Marine Science Center Student Ocean Conference; Newport, OR



John Mackenzie and Bill Hubbard give Former President George Bush a Coastal America bat and mug prior to the filming of his welcoming remarks for the 10th Anniversary Celebration. (See story pp 4 and 6.)

**Please visit www.coastalamerica.gov to view the video.*

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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