



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

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NEW ENGLAND CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The Honorable John Kerry, U.S. Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, announced the formation of the Coastal America - New England Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, at a luncheon ceremony at the World Trade Center in Boston, Massachusetts on January 21, 2000. Robert Durand, Secretary of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, spoke at the ceremony about the success of the corporate partnership in his state.

At the ceremony Dr. Joseph Westphal, Chair of Coastal America and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and Ms. Sally Yozell, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, made brief remarks and presented Dr. Wallace Hayes, Vice President of The Gillette Company, with a Coastal America Certificate of Appreciation for the company's role in establishing the partnership. A letter of commendation from William M. Daley, Secretary of Commerce, was also presented to The Gillette Company.

This first-in-the-nation public-private partnership to restore wetlands will facilitate further collaboration between corporations and government agencies. The Gillette Company, a leader in grooming products, was instrumental in establishing the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership in Massachusetts. The Associated Industries of Massachusetts, the Environmental Business Council and several participating corporations co-sponsored the event to invite corporations throughout the New England Region to join the partnership.



Secretary Durand, Senator Kerry,
Vice President Hayes, Secretary Westphal, Secretary Yozell

WAIKIKI AQUARIUM AWARDED DESIGNATION AS A COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER

On March 17, 2000 the Waikiki Aquarium joined the network of aquariums and marine museums designated as Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC). The honor, held by only ten other facilities in the U.S., brings with it a partnership with the federal agencies of Coastal America. The Waikiki Aquarium is the first CELC in the Pacific Islands Region, which comprises Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.



Waikiki Aquarium Designation

Michael Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works led the designation ceremony, which was attended by federal, state, and local representatives. The keynote speaker was U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka, who stated that, "The coastal marine environment is critical to the State of Hawaii. The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center will be a beacon of information." Dr. Alan Teramura, Senior Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate Division of the University of Hawaii, which operates the aquarium, spoke on its history and purpose.

As part of the ceremony representatives of partner agencies presented token gifts to Dr. Bruce Carlson, Director of the Aquarium. These gifts serve as symbols of their agencies' commitments of resources to enhance educational outreach programs.



COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER UPDATE

New England Aquarium (NEAq)

The New England Regional National Science Bowl was held at The Aquarium on February 26, 2000. NEAq is in the process of opening their East African Lake Victoria exhibit. At the National Association of Marine Labs (NAML) on February 29, 2000, representatives of NEAq noted that lab scientists, as a means to facilitate outreach, showed an interest in mobilizing their resources through Coastal America. NAML is also exploring mechanisms for sharing various marine databases through a web site. A new conservation film "Keepers of the Reef" went to the AZA Institute in March. To order, email: conserve@neag.org.

Mystic Aquarium

After tracking two pilot whales for 130 days, batteries on their satellite-linked time/depth recorders ran out. The movement of the pilot whales was mapped and placed on the Mystic Aquarium website. Mystic again participated in a satellite downlink with the JASON Project (its 11th year). This year's theme, "Going to Extremes", compared the performing of scientific observations in a sea lab with that in a space lab. Work continues with The Education Enterprise Zone (EEZ) to access curriculum through video teleconferencing. Classrooms start in April.

New York Aquarium

NY is in final preparation for a program to study beluga whales. The initial program is for grades 6-7, and will expand to K-12. A new seahorse exhibit will open on May 12. The Aquarium is working with the OPSail2000 Committee; activities are planned throughout New York City for Independence Day, July 4, 2000.

National Aquarium in Baltimore

The new Amazon River Exhibit opened in March. On April 27, 2000, there was a dedication of the Ft Mc Henry Wetland Restoration Site. A real-time water quality monitoring system will operate at the site, in partnership with Morgan State University. As part of the NOAA 30th Anniversary, employees and other volunteers performed a clean-up at the Ft Mc Henry site on April 1. Progress continues with the Eastern Neck restoration project and the eelgrass project in Lower Chesapeake Bay near Langley Air Force Base.

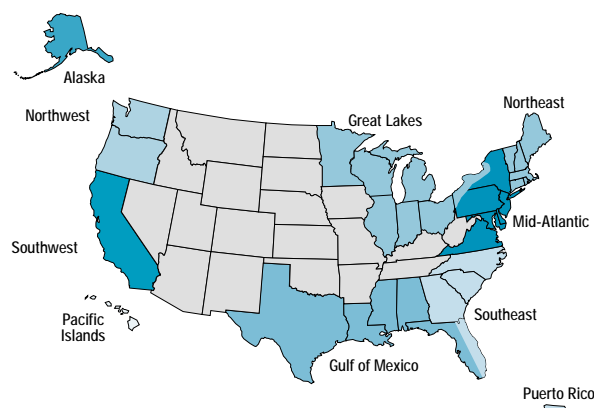
Texas State Aquarium

A Brownsville wildlife inspector presented the aquarium with samples of coral. The Texas State Aquarium and the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary held a joint teacher workshop, "Diving into Aquatics," on April 7-8, 2000, at the Aquarium. Educators participated in hands-on coral reef curriculum and

Project Aquatic WILD activities, and studied the impacts of human populations on watersheds and the effects to marine habitats. The curriculum was accredited by the state. The Texas Regional Ocean Science Bowl was held on February 26th, 2000, at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. The Texas State Aquarium co-sponsored the event and several staff volunteered as moderators, judges, time keepers, and runners.

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Splash Zone, a family learning gallery is opening April 8, 2000. *Splash Zone* blends live-animal experiences for families with children from infants to 9 years, featuring nearly 60 species, from South African black footed penguins to leafy sea dragons, colorful corals, moray eels, and tropical sharks. "Our children are the future stewards of the ocean," said aquarium Executive Director Julie Packard. "If they make an emotional connection with sea creatures while they're young, I'm confident that will translate into a lifetime of caring for the oceans. That's what *Splash Zone* is all about. That, and having a whole lot of fun."



Coastal America Regions

REGIONAL UPDATES

Northeast: *Exploring our Coastal Waters* was held at the Mystic Aquarium February 12-13, 2000. Coastal America partner agencies were represented and gave presentations on their involvement in environmental issues. The New England Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership was announced. (see feature article).

Southeast: The SERIT met on January 11, 2000. Discussion included the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, development of a business plan to continue support for Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers and several projects. The NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston is providing substantial technical assistance and support for development of the education web site for the International Game Fish Association's Fishing





Hall of Fame and Museum, a newly designated CELC. The Rains Mill Dam removal project was completed in February, 2000. An additional 50 miles, of the Little River (in the Neuse River Basin) above the former dam site, are now available for anadromous fish migration and spawning. SERIT is working with The Charleston Aquarium on their CELC nomination. The Battery Island, NC habitat restoration project was completed in February, 2000.

Gulf of Mexico: At the March 8, 2000 NIT/RIT meeting, Jim Giattina, Director, and Bryon Griffith, Deputy Director of the Gulf of Mexico Program, (GMP), presented *The Gulf of Mexico Program - Priority Issues, Strategies, & Work plan*. Bryon Griffith and Bob Bosenberg, GMRIT Chairs, proposed to marry the Gulf of Mexico Program with the Coastal America GMRIT. The NIT agreed with the concept, but expressed the need to have the GMP include at least one member of each Coastal America partner agency. The Gulf of Mexico Symposium was held on April 9 -12, 2000 at the Mobile Convention Center, Mobile, Alabama.

Pacific Islands: The Sustainable Seas Expeditions explored the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary January 14 - February 6, 2000. The PIRIT held a meeting to finalize plans for the Waikiki Aquarium designation and to identify potential projects. (See feature article)

Northwest: The NWRIT held a meeting on March 28-29, 2000. There were 28 attendees representing 17 federal agencies. The Coastal America Office was represented by Virginia Tippie and Art Bryant. Topics included NWRIT structure, project proposals, national initiatives, volunteerism, and public education. The NWRIT recommended that The Seattle Aquarium be designated as a CELC. A highlight of the meeting was a presentation of a web-based program, called *Planet Conserve, Protect and Restore (CPR)*, to promote volunteerism. *Planet CPR* uses a reward system for environmental volunteers, similar to airlines "frequent flyer" programs. The idea sparked interest among the attendees in using the system to promote projects, and to manage volunteer data consistently throughout the agencies. The Seattle Aquarium proposes to serve as a hub, in the Greater Puget Sound Area, for educational outreach, giving agencies a medium for interaction with community centers.

Alaska: The Regional Implementation Team (AKRIT) received a Coastal America Partnership Award on February 9, 2000 (see feature article). The team continues to work with Alaska SeaLife Center and the Girl Scouts to develop a patch program.

ALASKA REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM RECEIVES COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP AWARD

The Alaska Regional Implementation Team (AKRIT) received a Coastal America Partnership Award at a ceremony at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska on February 9, 2000. The event was held in conjunction with the *Alaska Forum on the Environment*. The award recognizes the AKRIT for their significant contribution to the goals of Coastal America. The AKRIT has become an effective multi-agency working group, actively involving resource, military, and infrastructure agencies of the federal government in partnership with state, local, and non-governmental organizations. The AKRIT has implemented numerous projects to protect migratory birds and marine mammal populations, and to restore anadromous fish and near shore habitats.

The AKRIT has developed a strong working relationship and substantive program with the Alaska SeaLife Center which was formally designated a CELC in September 1998. Marilyn Heiman, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Alaska Department of the Interior; Michael Payne, Assistant Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service; and Lt. Col. Christopher Turletes, Deputy District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Alaska, presented each member of the AKRIT with an award plaque and a congratulatory letter from Vice President Al Gore.



The Alaska Regional Implementation Team Partnership Award Ceremony



REGIONAL CHAIRS

NORTHEAST	Bill Hubbard	978 318-8552
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SOUTHEAST	Dennis Barnett	404 562-5225
GULF OF MEXICO	Robert Bosenberg Bryon Griffith	504 862-2522 228 688-1172
SOUTHWEST	Peter Seligman	619 553-5403
PACIFIC ISLANDS	John Naughton John Emmerson	808 973-2935 808 438-6968
NORTHWEST	Jim Reese	503 808-3862
ALASKA	Jeanne Hanson Guy McConnell	907 271-3029 907 753-2614
GREAT LAKES	Gene Fleming	312 353-6320

UPCOMING EVENTS

Principals Meeting

May 9, 2000

NIT Meetings

April 12, 2000, May 3, 2000
and June 14, 2000

National Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership Press Event

May 25, 2000

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



COASTAL AMERICA

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