

# Partnering to Achieve Results for Our Coastal Environment

COASTAL AMERICA  
PROGRESS REPORT  
2005–2008





COASTAL AMERICA
2002 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Background: In response to the need to protect, preserve and restore our coastal heritage the Coastal America Partnership was established by a Memorandum of Understanding in 1992 and continued by the Memorandum of Understanding of 1994. This 2002 Memorandum of Understanding supersedes the earlier versions.

Purpose: The purpose of Coastal America is to: (1) protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal ecosystems through existing Federal capabilities and authorities; (2) collaborate and cooperate in the stewardship of coastal living resources by working together and in partnership with other Federal programs, and by integrating Federal actions with state, local, tribal government, and non-governmental efforts; and (3) provide a framework for action that effectively focuses expertise and resources on jointly identified problems to produce demonstrable environmental and programmatic results that may serve as models for effective management of coastal living resources.

Statutory Basis: This interagency partnership operates within existing authorities and serves to link many Federal statutes that affect coastal resources including but not limited to: Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), Water Resources Development Acts, and National Environmental Policy Act. This Memorandum of Understanding does not amend or abridge any existing statutory authorities.

General Scope: Coastal America provides a forum for interagency collaborative action and a mechanism to facilitate regional action plans to protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal living resources. Partnership efforts will continue to emphasize the shared coastal concerns of habitat loss and degradation, nonpoint source pollution, and contaminated sediments. Other priority issues will be addressed as appropriate. To facilitate program activities, the partners have established a Principals Group, a National Implementation Team (NIT), Regional Principals, Regional Implementation Teams (RITs), and the Coastal America coordinating office. In addition, the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) network and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) have been established in collaboration with non-governmental partners. The partners ensure their organization's adequate regional and national representation and participation in these endeavors.

Responsibilities: The Principals establish overall policy for the Coastal America partnership. The Principals are senior policy representatives of the partnership agencies at the sub-cabinet level. The Chair of the Principals Group is designated by the Partnership. The group meets semiannually at a minimum. Similarly, the Regional Principals are senior policy representatives of the partnership agencies at the regional level.

The NIT members represent their respective agencies at national coordinating meetings, provide advice to the Coastal America office, represent Coastal America in various forums, participate on special workgroups as necessary and explore and facilitate coordination of national, inter-regional and other large-scale projects. The members are senior national-level managers from the appropriate operating elements of the partnership agencies. The NIT is chaired by the Director of the Coastal America office. The team meets monthly at a minimum.

The RITs are the primary operating units for Coastal America and provide forums for interagency consultation and action. The RIT members identify or develop regional strategies for joint action and facilitate mechanisms for their implementation. The members are senior regional-level managers from the appropriate operating elements of the partnership agencies. The RIT chairs are elected on a rotating basis by the respective teams. The teams meet quarterly at a minimum.

The CELC network creates a partnership between the federal partners and marine education centers of excellence. The network includes aquaria and other marine science-based institutions. The primary goal of the Learning Centers is to educate and involve the public in protecting our nation's coastal ecosystems.

The CWRP is a voluntary public-private partnership in which corporations join forces with federal and state agencies to restore wetlands and other aquatic habitats. The objective of the partnership is to reverse the degradation of America's fresh and saltwater wetlands and other aquatic habitats. The partnership also involves local communities, non-profit organizations and academia.

The Coastal America office serves to coordinate the activities related to the purpose of the partnership mission. The office provides the external point of contact for the partnership and facilitates the activities of the Principals, NIT and RITs, CELCs and CWRP. In addition, the office is a catalyst for development and facilitation of national projects and products, and education and training activities.

Funding: Each fiscal year, the partners identify those authorities under which multi-agency, intergovernmental projects can be funded. Partners will endeavor, where appropriate and consistent with their needs, to afford priority within their programs to projects meeting Coastal America criteria. All funding arrangements under this agreement will be consistent with any applicable restrictions on interagency financing.

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

Duration and Effect: This Memorandum of Understanding is effective as of the date of signature by all parties. This MOU shall be reviewed periodically by the parties at least once every three years to determine whether it should be revised, renewed or canceled, and may be amended by mutual written agreement.

Dispute Resolution: Nothing herein is intended to conflict with any of the federal agency partners' existing administrative orders, regulations, or legal authorities. At the first opportunity for review of the MOU, any necessary changes will be accomplished either by amendment to this MOU or by entering into a new MOU, whichever is deemed expedient and in the interest of all federal agency partners.

Approvals: This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into and made effective as of the date latest in time indicated below.

James L. Connaughton 11/26/02
Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President

Mark Rey 11/25/02
Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment
Department of Agriculture

Roy A. Bernardi 1/6/03
Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development
Department of Housing and Urban Development

John F. Turner 11/25/02
Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Department of State

George S. Dunlop 11/25/02
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Department of the Army

P. Lynn Searlett 12/11/02
Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget
Department of the Interior

Emil Frankel 12/17/02
Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy
Department of Transportation

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr. 11/25/02
Vice-Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere
Department of Commerce

H.T. Johnson 11/26/02
Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment)
Department of the Navy
Executive Agent for Department of Defense

G. Tracy Mehan, III 11/23/02
Assistant Administrator for Water
Environmental Protection Agency



**PARTNERING TO ACHIEVE  
RESULTS FOR OUR  
COASTAL ENVIRONMENT**

COASTAL AMERICA  
PROGRESS REPORT  
2005-2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to the Coastal America Partnership! The following Progress Report highlights activities of the Partnership conducted from 2005 to 2008.

Coastal America brings together people from federal agencies, state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to collaboratively address our Nation's coastal environmental issues. Our Partnership focuses on the protection, preservation and restoration of some of the most scenic and valuable areas of our Nation's oceans and coasts.

The last four years have been exciting for the Coastal America Partnership. We have responded with great enthusiasm to the President's 2004 Ocean Action Plan and Executive Order 13366, aligning our efforts through a better coordinated and integrated federal ocean governance structure and facilitating more effective federal partnerships with the states and private sector. Coastal America partners have made significant achievements in restoration and protection projects and have made considerable and valuable contributions to the enhancement of ocean literacy in our society. The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership continues to grow with over 400 corporations and non-governmental organizations, providing matching funds and in-kind services for partnership projects. The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center network has expanded significantly with the designation of five new centers, including one in Mexico, now reaching over 25 million people annually. Coastal America has also facilitated several important projects that align military training with coastal restoration activities, resulting in enhanced military readiness and environmental achievements otherwise beyond reach.

On behalf of the Cabinet level Committee on Ocean Policy and the Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration—the senior Principals for the Coastal America Partnership—I invite you to read about our accomplishments. I encourage you to get engaged in the Coastal America Partnership and to seek out even more innovative approaches to protecting and restoring our nation's valued natural resources. We pledge to continue to work with those committed to a positive future for our oceans and coasts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Connaughton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

James L. Connaughton  
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality,  
Executive Office of the President, and  
Chair, Coastal America Partnership

# COASTAL AMERICA...

## A PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I. THE COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP</b> .....	1
A. WHAT IS COASTAL AMERICA? .....	1
B. HOW DOES COASTAL AMERICA OPERATE? .....	2
COASTAL AMERICA PRINCIPALS GROUP.....	2
NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM.....	2
REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS .....	2
LOCAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS .....	2
GUIDING THE COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP PROCESS.....	2
C. PROGRAMS OF THE COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP .....	3
I. 2008 COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE .....	3
II. CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP.....	3
III. COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS.....	4
NEW PARTNERS .....	5
J.L. SCOTT MARINE EDUCATION CENTER- GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY	
ACUARIO DE VERACRUZ	
AUDUBON AQUARIUM OF THE AMERICAS	
GEORGIA AQUARIUM	
NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUMS	
NETWORK ACTIVITIES .....	6
SECOND NATIONAL STUDENT SUMMIT ON OCEANS AND COASTS	
AMERICORPS NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS VOLUNTEER AT CELCS	
CONFERENCE ON OCEAN LITERACY	
COASTAL AMERICA OCEAN ART CONTEST	
IV. COASTAL AMERICA PARTICIPATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE’S INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING PROGRAM .....	8
V. COASTAL AMERICA AWARDS PROGRAM.....	9
<b>II. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS</b> .....	11
A. REGIONAL OVERVIEW .....	11
I. NORTHEAST REGION.....	12
II. MID-ATLANTIC REGION.....	16
III. SOUTHEAST REGION .....	20
IV. GULF OF MEXICO REGION .....	23
V. SOUTHWEST REGION .....	27
VI. NORTHWEST REGION.....	29
VII. UPPER MISSISSIPPI AND GREAT LAKES REGION .....	31
VIII. ALASKA REGION .....	33
IX. PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION.....	35
<b>III. THE FUTURE OF COASTAL AMERICA</b> .....	37
IMPROVING OCEAN LITERACY.....	37
INCREASING CORPORATE INVOLVEMNT .....	37
ALIGNING ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS WITH MILITARY TRAINING .....	38
RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE .....	38
WORKING TOGETHER TO REACH OUR COMMON GOALS .....	38
<b>IV. APPENDICES</b> .....	39
I. 2005–2007 PARTNERSHIP AWARD SUMMARIES .....	39
II. REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM POINTS OF CONTACT .....	48
III. CELC CONTACT INFORMATION.....	49
IV. OCEAN ART CONTEST WINNING ART WORK .....	51

## COASTAL AMERICA FEDERAL PARTNERS

- White House Council on Environmental Quality, Chair
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of State
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Science Foundation

# I. THE COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP

## WHAT IS COASTAL AMERICA?

Coastal America is an action-oriented, results-driven process dedicated to restoring and preserving coastal ecosystems and addressing critical environmental issues. The Coastal America Partnership was launched in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush, and formalized in 1992 with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by nine sub-cabinet-level federal agency representatives. These representatives committed their agencies to work together and integrate their efforts with state, local, and non-governmental activities.

The Coastal America federal partner agencies, under the Chairmanship of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, updated the Coastal America MOU in November 2002. The partners pledged to coordinate their statutory responsibilities and combine their resources and expertise to better manage coastal resources.

The collaborative process created by Coastal America brokers skills and leverages funding to enhance problem solving, which enables quick and effective project implementation. These efforts have maximized the benefits and minimized the costs, both environmental and economic, of addressing complex coastal problems. Today, 16 federal agencies, 22 Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELCs), and hundreds of corporate partners are working collaboratively through the Coastal America Partnership to address these important issues.

The Coastal America process is further linked to the federal government through the Committee on Ocean Policy (COP) structure. The Bush Administration organized federal ocean governance efforts by implementing a 2004 Executive Order and the Presidential U.S. Ocean Action Plan (OAP). Coastal America's involvement in this ocean governance structure is beneficial to the Partnership, as it further enhances intergovernmental communication, increases opportunities for resource sharing, and greatly improves the ability to cooperatively conserve and protect the nation's ocean and coasts. Coastal America has not only actively supported implementation of the OAP, but its mission is further supported by the Plan's directives. For example, one OAP directive calls for the expansion of the CELC Network to promote lifelong ocean education. The Coastal America Partnership has embraced this task, and is actively seeking new ways to work with the Administration to accomplish mutual goals such as this.



*Coastal America National and Regional Principals gather at the Indian Treaty Room at the White House Executive Office Building to discuss collaborative partnerships.*

*“It is the mission of the federal interagency Coastal America Partnership to protect, preserve and restore the Nation’s coastal ecosystems through collaborative action and partnership.”*

Mission Statement of the Coastal America Partnership, as agreed upon by the Coastal America Principals

## HOW DOES COASTAL AMERICA OPERATE?

The Coastal America Partnership uses national, regional, and local teams to bring key participants together at each level. This collaborative approach enables the Partnership to identify and resolve national policy matters, develop and implement regional plans, and complete local projects quickly and cost-effectively.

**The Principals Group**, charged with establishing overall policy for the Coastal America Partnership, is the senior decision-making arm of Coastal America. The Group consists of senior policy officials, including Under or Assistant Secretaries, from federal agencies in the COP structure. As of August 2007, the Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration (ICOSRMI) serves as the Coastal America Principals Group. The Group is actively engaged in Coastal America Partnership activities, and meets to review progress and help chart the course for future actions.

**The National Implementation Team (NIT)**, directly under the Principals Group, is composed of senior-level representatives from the headquarters of federal partner agencies. The NIT meets monthly to implement the directives of the Principals, encourage collaboration among the partner agencies, and develop new initiatives for consideration by the Principals. As of October of 2008, the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR) serves as the National Implementation Team for the Partnership.

**The Regional Implementation Teams (RITs)** are the keystone of the Coastal America process. The RITs carry out the Partnership's mission by making projects happen on the ground. Comprised of senior regional staff of federal partner agencies, along with state representatives, the RITs identify projects, develop restoration strategies, and craft site-specific coastal restoration, protection, or education projects for collaboration. RITs include members from various federal and state agencies, which provides a unique cooperative approach that combines resources and authorities to address coastal problems in a holistic and integrated fashion. All RITs take a watershed approach to project implementation.

**Local Project Implementation Teams** are created to implement specific Coastal America projects. The teams consist of federal, state, local, non-governmental, and private-sector members including education institutions, public citizen groups, and others. These local teams are formed to achieve a specific objective, and they work closely with the RITs to ensure that the project mission and goals are realized.

Coastal America's time-tested cooperative approach to project implementation promotes cost-effective, creative solutions and results that no single organization could accomplish alone. Working in partnership, Coastal America projects restore and protect hundreds of thousands of wetland acres, reduce pollutants entering coastal waterways, protect marine life, and educate the public about the importance of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes conservation and stewardship.

### **Guiding the Process**

The Coastal America Partnership takes on a wide array of initiatives across the nation and across sectors with critical guidance and tactical oversight provided by the Principals Group. In recent years, discussions at the Principals level led to the development and implementation of the Coastal America Strategic Assessment, which continues to direct Partnership efforts, improve efficiency, and monitor progress. The Principals have also helped the Partnership develop strategies to increase attention and involvement in ocean and coastal directives of the U.S. OAP. The Coastal America Partnership Chair, James Connaughton (also Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and senior environmental advisor to the President), has been instrumental in guiding the Partnership throughout this time, convening six meetings of the Principals in Washington, DC.

In celebration of Capitol Hill Oceans Week 2005, Coastal America sponsored a Symposium on the U.S. Ocean Action Plan with discussion topics including advancing our understanding of oceans and coasts, enhancing resource use and management and improving ocean leadership and coordination. In conjunction with the symposium Coastal America hosted a "Celebration of our Oceans and Coasts" and presented the Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award to ADM James Watkins, Chairman of the U.S. Ocean Commission. The following day, the first meeting of national and regional principals was held at the White House complex. This unprecedented meeting focused on Coastal America's role in implementing the OAP and discussions on federal support for evolving regional governance.

***Programs of the Coastal America Partnership***

The Coastal America Partnership uses a number of tools and programs to accomplish its mission.

- Coastal America’s Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) engages corporate and non-governmental institutions in restoration and protection efforts and leverages critical funds for Coastal America projects. The corporate partners are key players in the restoration and protection of coastal ecosystems and engage in supporting key ocean literacy initiatives of the partnership.
- The network of Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELCs) is the non-profit education branch of Coastal America, that helps the partnership attain a more ocean-literate citizenry, inspire environmental stewardship, and build a foundation for involving the public in resolving our coastal issues.
- Coastal America has worked with the Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training Program (IRT) to ensure that projects that combine restoration and military training are executed.
- The Coastal America Partnership Awards program provides Presidential recognition to outstanding restoration, protection, and educational efforts in the field that exemplify Coastal America’s cooperative approach.

**2008 COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, DC**

In 2008 Coastal America held a partnership conference from September 24-26 in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the formal opening of the Smithsonian Ocean Hall. Federal national and regional representatives, CELC Directors, corporate and non-governmental partnership representatives attended the meeting. Participants discussed the draft 2009-2010 Action Plan and developed specific actions in three goal areas: 1) Provide assistance for Federal Coastal Programs 2) Coordinate efforts to improve public understanding of ocean and coastal issues and 3) Strengthen and grow the CWRP Program. Improving Ocean Literacy was a key focus of the conference and several collaborative actions were identified. The Ocean Art Contest Awards Ceremony and the Ocean Interpretive Station Pilot Project kick-off were held on the final day of the conference.



*Council on Environmental Quality Chairman James Connaughton inspires participants to raise hands in celebration of Partnership successes at the partnership conference .*

**THE CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP (CWRP)**

The CWRP is an innovative public–private initiative aimed at restoring, preserving, enhancing, and protecting aquatic habitats throughout the United States. Corporations committed to improving the environment contribute matching funds and in-kind services to

*“The CWRP exemplifies the tremendous impact of public/private sector collaboration around key ecological issues.”*

**Fred J. Fowler**  
President and CEO,  
Spectra Energy

**Chairman, CWRP**  
June 2006

leverage funding from various government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels for aquatic restoration and education projects that would not otherwise come to fruition.

The CWRP was founded in 1999 by The Gillette Company, U.S. EPA Region 1, and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Within six months, the partnership had raised \$1 million in cash and in-kind services for a variety of restoration projects. The Massachusetts model was quickly adopted by a number of other states in the northeast. Since then, the CWRP has grown to include 13 state chapters. Corporate members contribute matching funds to facilitate a wide array of aquatic habitat restoration and preservation projects. They also play an active role through a variety of in-kind service activities, including the donation of technical expertise, materials and equipment, and employee and family-oriented volunteer activities. These provide tangible, on-the-ground contributions to the recovery and protection of sensitive ecosystems, as well as a valuable and recognizable contribution to the communities where these companies are located.

In addition to its shovel-in-the-ground restoration projects, the CWRP partnership is contributing to the expansion of the nation's ocean literacy activities in collaboration with federal, local, and non-governmental partners. CWRP provides funds to train teachers and supports a number of special efforts on the part of Coastal America's network of CELCs to promote and conduct environmental education and outreach to thousands of people across the country.

Successful aquatic ecosystem stewardship and conservation depend on an informed public. The CWRP program provides a way for companies to help promote ocean literacy and ecologically sound watershed management practices, as well as to play an active role in a variety of tangible aquatic habitat restoration and preservation projects. All of these CWRP efforts strengthen the bond between environmentally and socially conscious companies and their communities, and build productive working relationships between the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

Building on the tremendous success of the domestic CWRP, Coastal America joined forces with several partners to formally launch the International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (ICWRP) in 2004. ICWRP commenced work in 2004 through the funding of a large-scale pilot project at the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve in Quintana Roo, Mexico. Sian Ka'an is both a World Heritage Site and a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. A project dedication ceremony for Sian Ka'an in April 2005 highlighted preliminary results of the project and demonstrated benefits to the region. Project partners have continued to work with the Mexican conservation organization—Amigos de Sian Ka'an—to develop a conservation land-buyer program targeting the coastal areas of the reserve and to acquire a key tract of land, Pez Maya, which protects the only canal linking the coral reef to an extensive wetland system.



*Tidal flow is restored to parched ground at the Bahia Grande restoration site. The Texas CWRP provided critical non-federal funds for this 10,000 acre wetland restoration project.*

## THE COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER NETWORK (CELC)

In the mid-1990s, discussions among the Coastal America partners on how to increase public awareness and understanding of coastal and marine issues led to collaboration between Coastal America and marine learning institutions around the country. In 1996, Coastal America formalized the CELC network, composed of several of the nation's premier aquaria and marine learning institutions. Building on their role as public education facilities, the CELCs use the resources of the partnership to expand the educational opportunities they offer to their communities. With combined resources, the CELCs increase public awareness and understanding about coastal and ocean issues and conduct community-based restoration projects.

There are currently 21 designated CELCs in the United States and one in Mexico. Each of these CELCs is dedicated to teaching their audiences about the regional ecosystems they inhabit as well as larger ocean issues. Abiding by directives in

*“It really is very important that state and local governments and industry and academia and non-profit organizations and our federal institutions work together to make sure we reduce and remove debris in the marine environment... The centerpiece, though, of this initiative will be our country’s Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers. These centers form a network of now 21 aquariums, museum and research facilities, and they include the most prestigious marine facilities in our country.”*

Mrs. Laura Bush,  
First Lady of the United States

Announcement of the  
National Marine Debris  
Initiative  
November 2, 2007



the President’s *Ocean Action Plan*, Coastal America continues to expand its CELC network nationally and internationally to achieve greater ocean literacy among the public and inspire environmental stewardship. The following five educational institutions were welcomed into the Coastal America CELC Network from 2005 to 2008.

***New CELC Network Partners***

**J.L. Scott Marine Education Center-  
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory of the  
University of Southern Mississippi**

On November 2, 2007, Coastal America designated the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center the 21st CELC. (See page 26 for detailed information.)



*Mrs. Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States, delivers the keynote address at the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center Designation Ceremony in Ocean Springs, MS.*



*Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary for Interior and Governor Fidel Herrera-Beltran, Governor of Veracruz, Mexico, designate Acuario de Veracruz as Coastal America’s 20th CELC and its first International CELC.*

**Acuario de Veracruz**

On June 14, 2007, Coastal America designated Acuario de Veracruz as its first International CELC, and the 20th learning center to join the CELC network. (See page 24 for detailed information.)



*Official John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) presents CELC plaque to Ron Forman, President & CEO, Audubon Nature Institute.*

### **Audubon Aquarium of the Americas**

The Audubon Aquarium of the Americas located in New Orleans, LA was welcomed into the Coastal America Partnership as the CELC network's 22nd learning center on October 29, 2008. (See page 24 for additional information.)

### **Georgia Aquarium**

On May 25, 2006 the Georgia Aquarium was designated as the 19th Coastal America CELC. (See page 20 for detailed information.)



*Ceremony officials enjoy a student performance during the Georgia Aquarium designation.*



*Principals at the Designation Ceremony for the North Carolina Aquariums.*

### **The North Carolina Aquariums**

The North Carolina Aquariums at Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores, and Fort Fisher were designated as Coastal America's 18th CELC on January 13, 2005. (See page 21 for detailed information.)

## **CELC Network Activities**

### **National Student Summit on Oceans and Coasts**

Coastal America celebrated its 10-year partnership with the CELC network on December 5–8, 2006, by hosting the Second National Student Summit on Oceans and Coasts. CELCs supported teams of high school students who convened for the Summit in Washington, DC with formal and informal educators and policy makers. It offered the students exposure to national leaders and provided them the unique opportunity to develop natural resource policy. The Summit was guided by the premise that such exposure would advance an ocean-literate and involved citizenship, and encourage ocean leaders of tomorrow beyond Summit participation and school curriculums. As a result of the Summit, teens from across the nation are now involved in cooperative conservation projects and mentoring programs that promote healthy coasts and oceans. They explored coastal issues such as tidal power, habitat restoration, conservation of wildlife, and ocean literacy programs. The students collectively pledged, "We are committed to making a change," and also presented personal commitments.



*Students present recommendations to Administration and Congressional officials on Capitol Hill during the Student Summit.*

### **AmeriCorps NCCC Signature Projects 2006**

In spring 2006, Coastal America and AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) launched over 20 signature projects nationwide to restore and protect the nation's coasts while teaching the principles of ocean literacy. For example:

- The Southwest Regional Implementation Team organized an NCCC team in Santa Rosa Creek, California, to remove invasive species, plant native vegetation, and stabilize the banks of Santa Rosa Creek.



*AmeriCorps NCCC volunteers prepare to remove invasive plants at North Carolina Aquarium sites.*

- In conjunction with the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium CELC in Dubuque, Iowa, NCCC members and community volunteers spray-painted stencils on storm drains to read, “Drains to Creek, Drains to River, Drains to Gulf” to increase public awareness of where storm water, waste, and litter travel after leaving the streets.
- The NCCC team assigned to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab CELC in Alabama completed maintenance, painting, and repair work and restored coastal habitat on the island.
- In Seattle, a volunteer team produced iPod broadcasts featuring community conservation themes. The team organized events and community volunteers to facilitate Earth Day celebrations throughout Seattle involving multiple federal, state, and private partners.

**Conference on Ocean Literacy 2006**

The Conference on Ocean Literacy (CoOL) was held June 7–8, 2006, in Washington, DC. The conference brought together key leaders in ocean education to discuss the principles of ocean literacy and opportunities for formal and informal efforts. The purpose of the Conference was to identify priorities to forward to the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Education under the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. CoOL organizers included the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, White House Council on Environmental Quality, DOC, DOI, EPA, NSF, and the Coastal America National Coordinating Office, among others.

In addition to the conference in Washington, DC, five regional CoOL workshops were sponsored by CELCs, Sea Grant, and Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence. These workshops involved over 320 participants from widely varying backgrounds in ocean and Great Lakes education fields. Satellite links brought the national conference in real-time to the regional workshops. Many other CELCs accessed the national conference and participated via webcast. The Aquarium of the Pacific, J.L. Scott Marine Education Center, Shedd Aquarium, The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium and the National Aquarium in Baltimore hosted regional workshops.

**Coastal America Ocean Art Contest**

During 2008 Coastal America conducted its first ever Ocean Art Contest. The Ocean Art Contest was created to use art as a visual expression of the importance of the ocean reflecting the seven Essential Principles of ocean literacy created by the Ocean Literacy Network. The purpose of the contest was to enhance public awareness of the importance of the ocean and to convey how personal actions affect the ocean. The contest gave young artists an opportunity to advance ocean awareness through the paintings, drawings and photographs that they created.

The contest, conducted by fifteen Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers throughout the United States and one in Mexico, drew thousands of entries from kindergarteners through college students. Each of the sixteen aquaria conducted



*President George W. Bush meets and congratulates the winners of the Coastal America Ocean Art Contest.*

*“Participating in the Coastal America Student Art Ocean Contest was a refreshing reminder of how fertile the imaginations of children are, and how fruitful the partnership between art, conservation, and our public resources can be.”*

**Jim Toomey**  
Cartoonist,  
Sherman’s Lagoon and  
Ocean Art Contest Judge

Ocean Art Contest  
Awards Ceremony  
Washington, DC  
September 26, 2008

their own regional contests and advanced their regional winners to the “National Contest” for the final round of judging. From there, a panel of ocean experts and marine artists selected the final winners. The judges selected the winning pieces based on visual impact, communication of the principle, and artistic merit of their work. After an extremely competitive judging process, twenty artists were selected as the Ocean Art Contest winners.

The twenty winners were then invited to Washington, DC for an awards ceremony recognizing their accomplishment as contest winners. In addition to the Coastal America ceremony, the students attended President Bush’s speech at the Smithsonian’s Museum of Natural History to learn about the state of our oceans and to be recognized by the President for their accomplishments.

To further promote the principles of ocean literacy and to celebrate the opening of the Smithsonian’s Sant Ocean Hall, the Museum of Natural History is displaying the twenty winning pieces of art work and their accompanying essays from December 8, 2008 through March 29, 2009.

### The Ocean Today Kiosk Pilot Project

On September 27, 2008 the Smithsonian’s Museum of Natural History opened the doors to its newest and largest permanent exhibit ever created at the Smithsonian, The Sant Ocean Hall. The Ocean Hall allows visitors to “See the Sea” by providing them with a variety of exhibitry exploring all things ocean. The exhibit aims to raise public awareness among the public of our ocean issues. The long term exhibit will advance ocean literacy and promote a citizenry of ocean stewards, claiming personal responsibility for the implications that their actions have on our ocean. One of the key multimedia exhibits present in the Hall is the Ocean Today Kiosk. The kiosk takes a highly visual and interactive approach to increasing ocean literacy by delivering up to date information about ocean life, news, discoveries and ocean science and technology. To further the goals of the Ocean Hall and the Ocean Today Kiosk, five Coastal America CELCs unveiled their own Ocean Today Kiosks which doubled the number of people across the United States who can interact with the kiosk. The CELCs’ kiosks not only display the Smithsonian’s national multimedia information feed, but will also provide information catering to regionally specific ocean, coastal and watershed issues.



*The Ocean Today Kiosk located at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, IL.*

In addition to the pilot project’s launch on September 27, Panasonic announced that they will collaborate with the Coastal America network to expand the project throughout the entire CELC network. Panasonic has made an extremely generous

contribution of hardware necessary to operate kiosks in each facility in the Coastal America network. This partnership with Panasonic makes possible the expansion of the kiosk project to all of Coastal America’s 22 learning centers by 2010. The CELC network reaches an annual audience of over 25 million people.

## INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING PROGRAM (IRT)

Coastal America works with the Department of Defense (DoD) IRT program to create a positive and lasting impact on the nation’s communities while providing the military with valuable training exercises. Since the inception of the IRT program, Coastal America has worked with DoD and the individual military services’ training representatives to ensure that coastal restoration projects are considered during the IRT program’s annual competitive selection process. Environmental projects continue to be chosen as a portion of each year’s collection of training exercises—an indication of the role Coastal America serves in matching the needs of natural resource agencies with the mission-oriented training for soldiers, sailors, and airmen. Coastal America facilitated IRT projects including dam removal, fish passage restoration, marine debris removal and marine mammal transportation. Specific IRT projects can be found in the Regional Partnership Accomplishments section of this report.



*Oregon Army National Guard on site at Yaquina Bay in Newport, OR. In March 2007, the Hatfield Marine Science Center collaborated with the National Guard IRT program to complete a shoreline revetment project.*

## COASTAL AMERICA AWARDS PROGRAM

In 1997 Coastal America established an Awards Program to recognize outstanding team efforts to restore and protect the coastal environment and organizations and individuals who have made significant contributions to these efforts. Coastal America presents Partnership, Spirit, and Special Recognition Awards on an annual basis and the Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award as appropriate.

Partnership Awards recognize outstanding multi-agency partnership efforts that protect and restore coastal ecosystems. Teams nominated to receive this prestigious award have demonstrated an innovative or unique way of accomplishing environmental restoration and preservation and exemplify the Coastal America process of collaboration. Teams nominated to receive a Spirit Award are those whose efforts demonstrate the Coastal America spirit of teamwork. The Special Recognition Award recognizes outstanding non-governmental organizations for their demonstrated leadership in protecting and restoring coastal resources.

The Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award was established in honor of the late Senator John Hubbard Chafee of Providence, Rhode Island (1922–1999) to recognize outstanding individuals who have contributed to ocean policy development. Senator Chafee distinguished himself as a U.S. Senator (where he served as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works), Secretary of the Navy and Rhode Island Governor. Senator Chafee made environmental issues a chief concern during his lifetime and fought many political battles at all levels of government on behalf of a healthy and safe environment.

Award recipients from 2005–2007 are listed below. Detailed information on each team project is provided in Appendix I.

*“The Ocean Today Kiosk gives the CELC network a vital tool which enables the public to learn about up to date issues that face the world’s ocean and to make a connection to how their individual actions affect the state of our ocean and coasts.”*

Ted A. Beattie,  
President/CEO of the  
John G. Shedd Aquarium

Ocean Today Kiosk  
Launch  
September 27, 2008

### SENATOR JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

In June 2005 Coastal America named Admiral James D. Watkins, USN (Ret) a Chafee Award recipient for his outstanding leadership in addressing the issues facing our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes. Admiral Watkins served as Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and led the effort to gain consensus on the critical ocean policy document, *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. His former positions include serving as President of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE), President of the Joint Oceanographic Institutions (JOI), Chief of Naval Operations, and Secretary of the Department of Energy.



*James L. Connaughton, Chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality presents the Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award to Admiral James D. Watkins, USN (Ret).*

## 2005

### PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

Batsto River Fishway Restoration Team, *Burlington, New Jersey*  
Cuddebackville Dam Removal, *Orange County, New York*  
Drakes Island Salt Marsh Restoration Team, *Drakes Island, Maine*  
Fort De Soto Ecosystem Restoration Partnership Team, *Ft. De Soto, Florida*  
Lonsdale Marsh Restoration Team, *Lonsdale Marsh, Rhode Island*  
New York Aquarium: Coney Island Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Team, *Coney Island, New York*

### SPIRIT AWARDS

Culebra Island Conservation Coalition, *Culebra Island, Puerto Rico*  
Galveston Bay Estuary Program/Invasive Species Workgroup, *Galveston Bay, Texas*  
Hatfield Marine Science Center SeaFest, *Newport, Oregon*  
IGFA Regional Ocean Conservation Club Team, *Dania Beach, Florida*  
Maryland Nutria Project, *Cambridge, Maryland*  
New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium Habitat Initiative, *New Jersey*  
Old Inlet Diamondback Terrapin Habitat Restoration Project, *Delaware*  
San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Sale/Donation & Interim Stewardship Plan, *San Francisco Bay, California*  
Southern Maryland Coastal and Aquatic Resource Team, *Patuxent River, Maryland*

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Public Service Enterprise Group, *Mid-Atlantic Region*

## 2006

### PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

“Aquatic Invaders” Invasive Species Outreach Toolkit Team, *North Carolina*  
Bahia Grande Restoration Team, *Brownsville, Texas*  
Branford Fishway Project, *Branford, Connecticut*  
Florida Gulf Coast University Oyster Restoration Team, *Ft. Myers, Florida*

### SPIRIT AWARD

Seattle Aquarium’s Citizen Science Program, *Seattle, Washington*  
The Nature Conservancy, Long Island Chapter Marine Team,  
*Cold Stream Spring Harbor, New York*

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Gulf of Mexico Foundation, *Corpus Christi, Texas*

## 2007

### PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

Woodlands Trail and Park Restoration Team, *Belle Chasse, Louisiana*  
Bolsa Chica Wetlands Restoration Team, *Huntington Beach, California*  
Learning in Florida’s Environment (LIFE) Program, *Florida*  
FKNMS Coral Protection and Restoration Program, *Key West, Florida*  
California “Thank you Ocean” Campaign, *California*  
Salmon in the City Stewardship Initiative, *Anchorage, Alaska*  
The Duwamish Alive! Coalition, *Seattle, Washington*  
Yokum Brook Restoration Team, *Becket, Massachusetts*

### SPIRIT AWARDS

Elders Point Jamaica Bay Salt Marsh Islands Restoration Project, *Jamaica Bay, New York*  
Los Machos Mangrove Restoration Project, *Puerto Rico*  
Woodbridge Creek & Joseph Medwick Marsh Project Team, *Woodbridge, New Jersey*

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

America’s WETLAND Foundation, *Coastal Louisiana*  
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, *Dubuque, Iowa*  
John G. Shedd Aquarium, *Chicago, Illinois*

## II. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Coastal America's nine Regional Implementation Teams (RITs) are led by senior managers from the partnership agencies. As the primary operating units for interagency consultation and action, the RITs identify regional issues, develop strategies to address them, and select and prioritize projects. The RITs also coordinate efforts across geographic and political borders. Briefly, the role of the RITs is to communicate, build relationships, synthesize information, and broker resources to more effectively implement coastal enhancement projects.

The RITs focus on site-specific projects representative of broader environmental problems in each region. Each RIT has developed strategies appropriate to the participating agencies and stakeholders of their region, these strategies guide the approach and the work of that RIT. Within each strategic plan, the regional team sets priorities based on the needs of the region. Where regional alliances exist, such as in the Gulf of Mexico, the teams support those efforts.

To develop projects regional teams rely on Coastal America's partners and programs. Corporate donations provided through the CWRP offer private-sector support for projects that otherwise may not be funded. Education and outreach efforts of the federal partners are bolstered through close interaction with the network of CELC aquaria and marine science institutions. The RITs collaborate closely with military agencies' natural resource and facilities managers with on-base environmental projects as well as with the service's IRT program representatives on off-base civilian projects that also serve as real-world training opportunities.

Hundreds of projects have been accomplished since the creation of Coastal America in 1992, many are now complete and are providing new ecological benefits to local ecosystems. Other projects are under way and in various stages of implementation, from the formative planning stages to monitoring and effectiveness studies. New projects continue to be considered for adoption.

The following regional partnership accomplishments reports showcase the hard work of these dynamic teams. They illustrate the diversity of projects undertaken and the tangible benefits that result from embracing collaborative approaches to resource management and conservation.



NOAA Photo Library

*“By working together on targeted resource management issues, we can increase governmental effectiveness, better prepare for future natural emergencies and support an improved quality of life. Together, our accomplishments as an Alliance will serve as a lasting legacy for all Gulf State coastal residents and visitors alike.”*

Transmittal Letter from  
The Gulf of Mexico  
Alliance Governor's  
Action Plan

Action Plan Released in  
March 2006

# Northeast

## *The Northeast Region*

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



## NORTHEAST REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The Northeast Regional Implementation Team (NERIT) collaborates on projects in each of the five New England coastal states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Historically, NERIT's focus has been on salt marsh restoration, dam removal to improve anadromous fish migration, and providing support for other state coastal program priorities. NERIT has full state and tribal representation, and collaborates on projects with regional CELC, CWRP, and IRT events and issues. NERIT works with the two CELCs in the region—the New England Aquarium in Massachusetts and the Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration in Connecticut. NERIT's military liaison (a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who also is a reservist) supports IRT projects by identifying future opportunities to collaborate with the military.

## CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

### Connecticut CWRP

In May 2007 the CT CWRP along with many others received a national Coastal America Partnership award for their role in the Branford Supply Pond fish ladder project. Originally constructed in the late 1800s, the Supply Pond Dam was located 4 miles upstream from Long Island Sound and prevented fish passage to acres of historic spawning areas. CT CWRP was the largest private donor, providing critical matching funds that allowed the Branford Land Trust to attain NOAA grant money. The Branford Land Trust worked for several years with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and received Community-based Restoration Program funds to construct the steep-pass fishway.



*CT CWRP was the largest private donor for the project to construct a steep-pass fishway at the Branford Supply Pond Dam.*

### Maine CWRP

Maine is a very active chapter, providing over \$100,000 most years to Maine-based Coastal America projects. In recent years, ME CWRP has supported several restoration projects at the Scarborough Marsh, and began supporting the Penobscot River Restoration Project. This project aims to restore 11 species of sea-run fish while maintaining energy production. The Penobscot River runs through one-third of the State of Maine. Another project supported by the ME CWRP is the Pemaquid Salt Marsh Restoration Project. Sponsored by NOAA's Restoration Center, the Gulf of Maine Council and the Town of Bristol, this project replaced crushed culverts with a series of large box culverts. The new culverts allow full tidal inundation into Pemaquid Marsh, restoring seven acres of salt marsh. The Pemaquid team celebrated the completion of this project on August 4, 2005.



*Pemaquid Project Team celebrates the completion of the Fish Point - Pemaquid Salt Marsh Restoration project in Bristol, ME.*

**Massachusetts CWRP**

On August 25, 2005 the MA CWRP and other partners gathered at the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Neponset Salt Marsh Reservation in Boston to celebrate the restoration of 15 acres of estuarine habitat. In the 1950s, materials dredged from the Neponset River were deposited onto the marsh surface and a dike for the sewer main was built across the marsh. The restoration project involved removing, and then relocating acres of dredge fill to restore tidal flow.



*Volunteers on site at State Game Farm Project in East Sandwich, MA.*

On October 30, 2006 The Raytheon Corporation hosted a MA CWRP conference at General Electric (GE) in Lynn, MA to explore ways that private sector talents and resources can be combined with public funding to achieve greater results. Employees at GE donned waders and assisted state fisheries biologists to monitor fish species in the Saugus River. The firm also helped underwrite the costs of studies for restoration plans of Rumney Marsh, the largest coastal marsh in the Boston Metropolitan area. GE partnered with state and federal environmental agencies to publish The Gulf of Maine Habitat Restoration Strategy, which identifies habitat restoration needs and offers recommendations for their recovery. The Gillette Company confirmed their continued long term support by donating \$10,000 to match federal grants for community habitat restoration projects in the Bay State.

The MA CWRP hosted an event in December 2007 to recognize fifty CWRP partners in Massachusetts that have contributed cash and services to the CWRP since its inception in 1999. Over 75 members from the private and public sectors participated in the event, which highlighted the accomplishments of the state chapter. Those honored at the event contributed toward the MA CWRP's accomplishments to date, including the completion of 26 projects that have restored 210 acres of wetlands and 9.5 river miles in Massachusetts.



*New England and Mid-Atlantic CWRP participants gather at a meeting in June 2005 in Boston, MA with Coastal America Principals to discuss CWRP strategies.*

The event also provided the MA Energy and Environmental Affairs Office an opportunity to premier its new policy document on dam removals in the state. The MA CWRP also participated in 2007 on a task force of state agencies and private organizations that produced a Blueprint for Aquatic Habitat Restoration in Massachusetts.

In 2006 though 2007, the MA CWRP team completed five important projects: The Town Brook Fish Ladder Project in Plymouth, MA, the Restoration of Yokum Brook in Becket, MA, the State Game Farm Project in East Sandwich, MA, Thompson Island in Boston, and Dun Fudgin in Gloucester. These projects were critical to enhancing fish passage and restoring wetlands to create healthier ecosystems.

*“Far too often it seems that we are forced to defend against assaults on the environment. I’m pleased to have been able to partner with local leaders that have the foresight and dedication to protect these unique natural treasures, so that they can continue to be enjoyed by residents and tourists alike.”*

**William Delahunt**  
U.S. Congressman (MA)

**MA CWRP Recognition Event**  
March 10, 2006

**Congressman Delahunt received the Gulf of Maine 2005 Visionary Award on behalf of the Maine Council on the Marine Environment**

### New Hampshire CWRP

The New Hampshire CWRP distributes funds and provides in-kind support to conduct dam removal and wetland restoration projects. The NH CWRP assisted with the Wiswall Dam Bypass Project by providing the photorealistic project design. They also recently completed the Bull Toad Pond Invasive Species Removal and Restoration Project in New Castle, through which participants not only removed harmful species but replaced them with beneficial ones.



*Volunteers plant pitch pines at the site of the Bull Toad Pond Restoration Project in Portsmouth, NH.*

### Rhode Island CWRP

Since September 2006, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District has partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and RI CWRP to restore the wildlife sanctuary at Town Pond/Boyd's Marsh in Portsmouth. In total, 20 acres of salt pond and salt marsh habitat were restored, uplands were preserved, and passive recreation trails were developed. Restoration primarily involved removal and redistribution of dredge material that was placed in Town Pond when the Fall River Federal navigation channel was dredged in the early 1950s. Most of the excavation work is now complete; remaining construction on wetland formation and other project features are under way. The RI CWRP also supported the Lonsdale Marsh Restoration Project. This project restored 17 acres of habitat by removing a former drive-in theatre within a heavily urbanized watershed. The team received a Partnership Award for this project in September 2006.



*Before*



*After*

*The Lonsdale Restoration team removed a drive-in movie theatre to create emergent wetlands and a riparian buffer along the Blackstone River in Lonsdale, RI.*

## COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

### Federal Partners Sponsor Education Programs aboard the EPA Ocean Survey Vessel *Bold*

The *OSV Bold* made its first appearance in New England on November 26, 2005. The EPA's 224-foot research flagship was docked at Fort Trumbull State Park in New London, Connecticut, and provided a live classroom for staff and students from the Mystic Aquarium and the Institute for Exploration. *Bold* scientists from EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, Navy, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection conducted research at New London Harbor and Long Island Sound, and later explained their findings to the public on board the vessel.

On November 28, 2005, the *OSV Bold* docked in Boston Harbor at the U.S. Coast Guard base in Boston's North End. EPA and the Coast Guard made the *Bold* available to reporters and students from the New



*EPA research vessel, OSV Bold, docked at Fort Trumbull State Park in New London, CT.*

England Aquarium to tour Boston Harbor and learn about the ship, its laboratories, and the oceanographic scientists on board. The MA CWRP and CT CWRP funded local transportation for students to attend this event.

On July 5, 2007, the Coastal America agencies assisted EPA with an open house of the *OSV Bold* in Newport, Rhode Island, during which over 500 people toured the ship and learned about agency missions.

**The Mystic Aquarium**

The Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration in Mystic, Connecticut hosted many Coastal America events in recent years. Several “Mostly Coastal” weekends were held with Coastal America’s federal partners operating outreach booths and providing educational presentations for the public. In summer 2007 the NERIT, with support from the CT CWRP, entertained 30 students from the Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration’s education program on board the EPA *OSV Bold*. Students were met at the New London Fort Trumbull State Park dock by the NERIT staff and spent the day onboard with marine scientists and specialists from the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. EPA, Navy, NOAA, U.S. FWS, Natural Resources Conservation Service, CT Department of Environmental Protection, and U.S Army Corps of Engineers. The CT CWRP provided funds to support the students’ day onboard the *Bold*.



*Students learn about the EPA Ocean Survey Vessel Bold.*

**The New England Aquarium**

In 1996 the New England Aquarium was designated as the nation’s first Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. Since then, NERIT has engaged in numerous collaborative efforts with the education staff of the New England Aquarium, including development of a teacher sabbatical program and exhibits. The Aquarium has often hosted regional meetings. In June 2005, a joint NERIT and Mid-Atlantic regional Implementation Team (MARIT) regional principals meeting was held at the Aquarium’s facility which included over 100 participants from all of the northeastern states, including national principals, corporate partners, NERIT and MARIT team members, and regional administrators. The meeting was a precursor to the national meeting held later that year. Discussions included strengthening the partnership’s regional teams and providing local support for the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. A panel of state representatives discussed their concerns and issues, and regional CWRP chapters worked on strengthening Partnership collaboration efforts.



*The New England Aquarium participates in Coastal America activities such as the National Student Summit on Oceans and Coasts. Seated here is the Aquarium’s student delegation in Washington, DC.*

*“This Partnership Award highlights the Ocean State ethic that Rhode Island displays. Restoring degraded wetlands here at the former Lonsdale Drive-In increases the overall health and productivity of the Narragansett Bay watershed.”*

Jack Reed  
U.S. Senator (RI)

Lonsdale Marsh  
Partnership Award  
Ceremony  
Providence, RI  
September 11, 2006

# Mid-Atlantic

## *The Mid-Atlantic Region*

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



## MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

MARIT is dedicated to promoting growth to enhance membership and increase resources for project development. To achieve these goals the MARIT leadership expanded their interaction with state CWRP chapters through sub-regional MARIT meetings. Consequently, the team launched a new CWRP chapter in Maryland in October 2008 and continues to support existing CWRP chapters. MARIT also continues to support marine education and public outreach through its CELCs located at the National Aquarium in Baltimore and the New York Aquarium.



*Sheepsherd Bay, Brooklyn, NY.*



*Coastal America Annual Meeting Participants and the Maryland Nutria Eradication Team at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Cambridge, Maryland, May 2007.*

### 2007 Coastal America Annual Meeting in Tilghman Island, Maryland

The 2007 Coastal America Annual Partnership Meeting was held May 15–18 on Tilghman Island, Maryland. The focus of the meeting was to further federal involvement in ocean and coastal protection, restoration, and education by finding new ways to leverage Coastal America’s resources through effective partnerships with the private and public sectors. The meeting examined the Administration’s new ocean governance structure and how the Coastal America Partnership can be used to advance mutual goals. Coastal America Principals attended the meeting, offering insights on policy and future directions for the Partnership. During the meeting the Coastal America team visited the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the Poplar Island

Environmental Restoration Project. The team was also able to participate in the Spirit Award Ceremony for the Nutria Eradication Team at the Blackwater NWR.

## CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

### Delaware CWRP

Since the establishment of the DE CWRP in 2004, the team has focused their projects on aquatic species of Delaware; specifically, the threatened terrapin. The DE CWRP sponsored their first project, the Old Inlet Terrapin Habitat Enhancement Project, in May 2005. This project restored six acres of critical nesting habitat for the northern diamondback terrapin.

In 2006 the DE CWRP funded a project to alert travelers about ambulatory aquatic species. Traffic signs were erected to inform travelers that diamondback terrapins were



*Traffic signage funded by the DE CWRP was erected in Delaware to alert travelers of Terrapins in the area.*

likely to be crossing highways during their egg-laying season. The signs supported a larger project conducted by the Center for Inland Bays of Delaware to research and rescue egg-laying females and their eggs. This effort was funded by U.S. FWS.

**Maryland CWRP**

The new Maryland CWRP chapter was successfully launched during a kick-off event on October 24, 2008 in Queenstown, MD. The MD CWRP is chaired by Charlie Birney of The Brick Companies, with the support of two additional companies, Constellation Energy and Biohabitats which will also serve in leadership roles. Nonprofits such as Ducks Unlimited, state agencies like the Department of the Environment and the Department of Natural Resources, and federal agencies such as EPA and USFWS were also involved in the kick off event. Currently, MD CWRP has proposed six restoration projects throughout the state, four of which are in the Bay watershed. MD CWRP is looking for other corporations to join the partnership and help with new potential restoration projects, particularly involving oyster habitat restoration and projects in urban areas.

**New Jersey CWRP**

The NJ CWRP chapter held meetings from 2005-2008 to review existing project support, recruit new members, and endorse new projects. The chapter established a project subcommittee to provide assistance with vetting new projects and to follow up on previously supported initiatives.

A very successful project that was supported by the NJ CWRP and received a 2005 Coastal America Partnership Award was the installment of the Batsto River Fishway. The fishway has allowed access for anadromous fish to approximately eight miles of historic spawning and forage areas upstream.

A unique volunteer opportunity was presented to the NJ CWRP by Pinelands Nursery, an active CWRP member. The nursery offered to donate excess plants to create rain gardens and other small restoration projects around the state. Several members of the CWRP are continuing to develop this opportunity.

Four new projects were approved for funding in 2007 and are being implemented: The NY/NJ Baykeeper Oyster Project on the Navesink River in Red Bank, a fish passage notch in the Nevius Street Dam on the Raritan River in Somerville, a new seed storage facility in Cape May at the Natural Resources Conservation Service and funding to support listing of the red knot shorebird as an endangered species. All projects were selected for their ecological importance; of particular significance is the red knot shorebird issue, which has hemisphere-wide implications. Support of these projects was provided by many ex-officio partners such as the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, USFWS, NOAA, and USEPA. The NJ CWRP recently welcomed several new members and is working to expand both the number and scope of future projects.



*J.P. Woodley, Assistant Secretary for the Army (Civil Works), presents a Partnership Award to NJ DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell and U.S. ACE-Philadelphia District Lt. Col. Robert Ruch.*

*“This is important work. Restoration of habitat for the diamondback terrapin is just one way corporate Delaware and DNREC can work together to solve environmental problems. I look forward to partnering on other restoration projects with DE CWRP, especially those that enhance Delaware’s living resources.”*

John Hughes  
Delaware Department of  
Natural Resources and  
Environmental Control  
Secretary

Delaware Terrapin Spirit  
Award Ceremony  
Dover, Delaware  
May 2006

Current projects include installation of boom anchors to protect sensitive estuarine habitats on the Delaware Bay; reforestation of 150 acres of Atlantic white cedars in the Franklin Parker Preserve; propagation of native plants through the Morris County Soil Conservation District; creation of the environmental research and education program Hawk Rise with the Linden Public School System; community-based restoration of the Second River in Essex County with the International Youth Organization; and vegetation restoration along the path to wildlife habitats at the Cape May County Technical School.

### New York CWRP

The NY CWRP continues to hold chapter meetings to focus on ongoing projects, future plans, and recruitment of new members. Several new members have recently joined the NY CWRP, and the chapter has provided financial backing for several projects, including the continual support of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and Canoga Marsh projects originally endorsed in 2006. As part of a large effort to increase the quality of freshwater habitat in the Peconic River, the NY CWRP assisted with funding for the design and construction of fish passage and invasive species signage.

The NY CWRP provided support for the construction of a roadside pull-off that allows people traveling through the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway to safely enjoy the marsh and lake. The pull-off also provides a safe area for school buses to pull aside so students can study the marsh. NY CWRP has also contributed funds for the development of educational kiosks for visitors at this roadside pull-off.



*Construction underway on the shores of Cayuga Lake, NY.*

### Virginia CWRP

The State of Virginia, the Virginia Manufacturers' Association, and Smithfield Foods, Inc. gathered on March 24, 2005 to launch the Virginia CWRP chapter. Over 70 representatives from the private sector, the Virginia State government, and environmental organizations attended. Presently, the VA CWRP includes ten partners from around the state. The VA CWRP has partnered with The James River Association and the USFWS to restore 1,900 linear feet of shoreline at Ducking Stool Point in Charles City County, Virginia. The effort protects over 500 acres of tidal freshwater marsh at the mouth of Herring Creek, a tributary to the James River.

Another project will restore 70 acres of freshwater tidal and non-tidal wetlands along the James River between Richmond and Williamsburg, Virginia. The CWRP is teaming up for this project with The Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences (Virginia Commonwealth University), which has obtained a 343 acre property ideally suitable for a biological field station. The removal of a man-made dam at the mouth of Kimages Creek will provide a significant increase in these critical habitats along the lower James River in Virginia. Hydrologic analysis of the floodplain topography indicates that most of the area historically supported a bottomland hardwood forest. The project will recreate the forest, as well as restore 1.5 miles of tidal creek to natural hydrology and function.



*Shoreline restoration project at Ducking Stool Point, James River Association, Virginia.*

## COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

### Conference on Ocean Literacy 2006

The National Aquarium in Baltimore (NAIB), in partnership with Maryland Sea Grant, was a regional workshop site for the 2006 Conference on Ocean Literacy. Representatives from the mid-Atlantic region heard presentations from the National Conference on Ocean Literacy in Washington, DC. Participants were also part of the testing and formative evaluation of “Watershed Moments,” a new staff-led, interactive auditorium program focused on citizen actions to preserve the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (see page 7 for further details).

### National Aquarium in Baltimore

The National Aquarium in Baltimore (NAIB) continues their excellent work in community based restoration, education, and outreach. The Schoolyard *Spartina* project and the Aquarium Conservation project allow students and aquarium volunteers to go out into the field and help restore Chesapeake Bay wetlands at five different locations. In the summer of 2006 the NAIB’s Aquarium on Wheels program, composed of 20 high school students from Baltimore City and Baltimore County, helped the Chesapeake Terrapin Alliance collect signatures for a petition to close the Maryland state terrapin fishery. As a direct result of this action, the Maryland Diamondback Terrapin Fishery was closed on April 9, 2007, and a law was signed by Governor Martin O’Malley to codify this action.



*Students participate in restoration projects like Schoolyard Spartina through programs at the National Aquarium in Baltimore.*

### New York Aquarium

The New York Aquarium recently completed their national EPA-funded Project POWER: Protecting Our Wetlands with Educators and Regulators. Nearly 500 New York City residents and corporations have participated in Project POWER workshops since 1994. With EPA funding support and personal commitments from the NY Aquarium and NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, a course was designed to help the community prevent the destruction of valuable wetlands. Project POWER invites violators and non-violators into the Aquarium to watch slide presentations, hear lectures, and tour museum exhibits to improve their understanding and appreciation of wetland ecosystems.



*Project POWER participants outside the New York Aquarium.*

*“CWRP is a major contributor toward reaching our country’s goal of restoring 100,000 wetland acres annually and we are very pleased to play an integral role in the creation of the Virginia Chapter.”*

Dennis H. Treacy  
Vice President of  
Environmental and  
Corporate Affairs,  
Smithfield Foods

Smithfield Foods,  
Announcement of  
Virginia CWRP  
March 20, 2005

# Southeast

## *The Southeast Region*

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



## SOUTHEAST REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

SERIT focuses on developing uses for the tools provided by Coastal America: the CELCs, the CWRP, and the IRT program. The SERIT expanded with the 2005 launch of the Georgia CWRP chapter and the CELC designations of the North Carolina Aquariums and the Georgia Aquarium. The GA CWRP chapter was formally launched in October of 2005 and is the first chapter in the SERIT. The North Carolina Aquariums joined the CELC network in January of 2005 as the 18<sup>th</sup> CELC, and the Georgia Aquarium joined in May of 2006 as the network's 19<sup>th</sup> member. The designations of the North Carolina and Georgia Aquariums give the SERIT six CELC institutions in their region. As a result, they allocate much of their support to collaborative opportunities offered by these CELCs. Along with supporting its CELCs, the SERIT continues to support the

GA CWRP while working to establish additional chapters and identify new IRT projects in the southeast region.

## CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

### Georgia CWRP

In October of 2005 the GA CWRP was formally launched at an event in Marietta, GA. The restoration and enhancement of wetlands in the Johnson's Ferry Unit of the National Park Service's Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area is the first major project of the GA CWRP. The project includes an aggressive invasive species removal program and the replacement of failed culverts adjacent to the Chattahoochee River. This ambitious public-private partnership involves several facets including the rehabilitation of wetlands, streams and terrestrial habitat; the protection of cultural resources; and the enhancement of educational and recreational opportunities.



*The groundbreaking ceremony and the formal launch of the GA CWRP at the site of the first project in the Johnson's Ferry Unit of the National Park Service's Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.*

## COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS



*Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, U.S. EPA; Bernie Marcus, Founder, Home Depot; and Aquarium Benefactor witness signing of Memorandum of Understanding by Timothy R.E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere NOAA, US DOC; and Jeffrey Swanagan, President of the Georgia Aquarium designating the Aquarium a Coastal America CELC.*

### Georgia Aquarium

On May 25, 2006, the Georgia Aquarium was designated as the 19<sup>th</sup> Coastal America CELC. Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Timothy R. E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. DOC, presented the prestigious designation to the Aquarium. Bernie Marcus, Founder, Home Depot and Aquarium Benefactor received the designating honors.

The Georgia Aquarium is the largest aquarium in the world, offering interactive experiences to over 3 million visitors each year. The Aquarium's education department is dedicated to teaching audiences of various ages while promoting and providing a learning experience that inspires guests to appreciate the world's aquatic biodiversity and promote conservation action.

**International Game Fish Association**

Coastal America’s southeast team works with the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) on regional education and outreach programs that focus on the conservation of game fish in the U.S. and internationally. On February 2, 2005, the IGFA hosted World Wetlands Day at their 60,000-square-foot outdoor wetlands park in Dania Beach, Florida. High school volunteers were recruited to help with wetland related activities in their local community. In 2006 the IGFA hosted a wetlands workshop for 40 K-12 educators to teach them about the different kinds of wetlands, with a particular emphasis on the Everglades.



*Teachers participate in workshops at the Wetlands Teacher Workshop held at the IGFA in 2006.*

**The North Carolina Aquariums Designation**

On January 13, 2005, the North Carolina Aquariums located at Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores, and Fort Fisher were collectively designated as Coastal America’s 18<sup>th</sup> CELC. The designating officials were Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary, DOI, and Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water, U.S. EPA. The North Carolina Aquariums are distinct among the Coastal America Learning Centers because they are three separate institutions along the North Carolina coast that provide accessible outreach to the public.

Since its designation, the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher has hosted two workshops—“Program Design & Evaluation” and “Understanding Marine Protected Areas”—that were supported by Coastal America and NOAA’s Office of Professional Development. The Aquarium opened a new exhibit in November 2006, “Exotic Aquatics: Strange & Beautiful Life on Planet Ocean” and continues to update and expand other exhibits and programs.



*A school group at the North Carolina Aquarium at Roanoke Island.*

Through Coastal America, the North Carolina Aquariums received the service of an AmeriCorps team for the month of March 2006. During their four-week stay the team completed a series of projects at the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher and the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island. These projects included invasive species removal, restoration projects for the Aquariums, restoration of the Carolina Beach State Park, and enhancements to the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge.

**South Carolina Aquarium**

The South Carolina Aquarium continues its work to raise awareness of issues surrounding loggerhead sea turtles and to rehabilitate injured animals in the Aquarium’s sea turtle hospital. In 2006, the Aquarium hosted “Sea Turtle Summer” which featured enhanced exhibits and live camera feeds from the sea turtle hospital. The CELC spearheaded the community art project “Turtle on the Town” which debuted in 2007 and welcomed the aid of many community partners. Also in 2007, high school interns from the Aquarium developed and distributed sea turtle outreach products specifically targeted toward temporary residents in beach communities.

In 2007 the South Carolina Aquarium partnered with the Hollings Marine Laboratory to raise ocean literacy by hosting a seminar series entitled “Oceans and Human Health.” The series focused on human effects on coastal and ocean environments and how changing

*“We’re delighted to be included in the Coastal America partnership. The designation will enable us to expand our conservation message to far more people through participation in the Learning Center network.”*

**Bernie Marcus**  
 Founder, Home Depot and Aquarium Benefactor

**Georgia Aquarium Designation Ceremony**  
 May 25, 2006

Oceans impact human health. The seminar series featured research being conducted at local scientific facilities. The Aquarium recently launched an interactive touch screen kiosk that allows guests to interpret data collected by buoys off the South Carolina coast. This new outreach tool was funded by NOAA through a grant from the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium and the Southeast Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence.

## INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING PROGRAM

### U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen Work at the NC Aquarium at Roanoke Island

The North Carolina Aquarium at Roanoke Island requested assistance from Coastal America with their efforts to change their facility's hard-shoreline protection system to a leading-edge, ecologically appropriate, mixed soft and hard shoreline system. The work would involve grading and relocating considerable quantities of soil and stone. The IRT program was contacted for assistance with the project. The IRT reconnaissance team determined that, although the construction aspects would be good training, the IRT program was not equipped to conduct the planning study to produce the necessary design diagrams. The Coastal America National Coordinating Office approached the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis for assistance with the shoreline re-design. Professor David Kriebel led two groups of midshipmen through a senior design course that resulted in a new shoreline protection plan as well as a review of the design of a proposed oceanfront pier, also owned by the North Carolina Aquarium. The next step, site construction, is proposed as a joint Navy/Air Force IRT project and will begin once building materials are obtained by the State of North Carolina.



*Naval Academy Midshipmen with other project team members on site at the North Carolina Aquarium at Roanoke Island.*

### Military Divers Train and Protect Coral Reefs in Fort Lauderdale

In the 1970s, approximately 2 million tires were placed on a 17-acre site to create an artificial reef. Over the years the bundled tires have loosened and shifted, spreading to cover approximately 34 acres of sea floor and destroying the adjacent natural coral reef. Although this problem was known for decades, a solution to recovering the tires seemed out of reach as natural resource agencies had neither the funds nor expertise to mount a large-scale underwater salvage operation. In 2006, Coastal America facilitated a joint county/state/federal team of Navy salvage divers to work with Broward County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and NOAA to assess the feasibility of removing the failed artificial reef from the ocean floor as a military training exercise. Having received a positive reconnaissance report from the Navy that indicated a valid match between the environmental cleanup needs and a challenging diver training exercise, DoD approved the tire cleanup as an IRT



*William Nickols, Copyright 2008*

*Recovering 700,000 tires from the seafloor is the first step to restoring coral reefs in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.*



*Thousands of derelict tires are removed by military divers to protect and preserve nearby coral reefs. After the tires are removed from the sea floor, they are stored in trailers then transported to be recycled.*

project. In June 2007, a team of 40 divers from the U.S. Army, Navy, and Coast Guard, along with a 175-foot Army landing craft, began removing the tires from the seafloor. The project's multi-year goals include removing an estimated 700,000 tires to prevent further coral destruction and allow the corals to recolonize the fossil reef, while also serving as a joint-service salvage diver training opportunity for the military.

The project continued in 2008 with a full-scale salvage recovery effort which was executed by 19 Army divers, 21 Navy divers, 12 Navy patrol boat operators and the crew of the Army Landing Craft Brandy Station assisted on deck by several soldiers. During this training exercise the divers recovered 43,934 tires from the sea floor which were then converted to tire derived fuel, or TDF, which is used in lieu of coal in industrial boilers. The on-land transportation of the tires and subsequent conversion into TDF were made possible by Florida Governor Charlie Crist's \$2 million contribution to the multi-year joint county-state-federal project.

## Gulf of Mexico

### *The Gulf of Mexico Region*

- Florida
- Alabama
- Mississippi
- Louisiana
- Texas



## GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

As a result of a shared vision for a healthy and resilient Gulf of Mexico coast, the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas were supported by 13 federal agencies to formalize the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. The first action taken by the Alliance was the development of the Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts, which was released at the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit on March 28, 2006.

The GMRIT shares the goals and objectives outlined in the Governor's Action Plan, which align with Coastal America's mission. This far-reaching Governors' Action Plan, which is also supported by the President's U.S. Ocean Action Plan, challenges the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to make tangible progress on five priority issues: water quality, wetland and coastal restoration, environmental education, characterization of Gulf habitats, and nutrient reductions. Implementation of 11 actions and 73 Action Blueprint steps outlined in the Governors' Action Plan is currently underway and the team is making tremendous strides.

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance Environmental Education Network (EEN) established a steering committee and several working groups to implement the Governor's Action Plan concerning education initiatives. In June 2007, the EEN hosted a joint workshop with the Gulf Coast Ocean Observing System Education and Outreach Council in Spanish Fort, Alabama. Other workshops included the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) educational workshops held in South Florida in 2006/2007. GMRIT significantly expanded its CELC network in the region and now has a CELC in each U.S. state bordering the Gulf and one in Veracruz, Mexico.

### **National Meeting in Mobile, Alabama**

In April 2006, the GMRIT hosted the Coastal America Annual Meeting in Mobile, Alabama. The meeting focused on improving productivity by developing regional action plans with emphasis on the three Coastal America tools: the CELCs, the CWRP, and the IRT. Several Coastal America Principals participated in the meeting, offering insights on policy and future directions of the Partnership. The annual meeting included a tour of Alabama and Mississippi coastal areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina and efforts under way to restore critical coastal habitats. An evening event sponsored by the Dauphin Island Sea Lab highlighted the many achievements of this CELC. A walking tour of the Dauphin Island Estuarium and nature trail showcased the work completed by AmeriCorps volunteers earlier that year.

## CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

### **Texas CWRP**

The Texas CWRP was the largest private sponsor of the Bahia Grande Restoration Project, contributing over \$130,000 in cash and in-kind services. The Bahia Grande Project is one of the largest restoration efforts in the country, having restored over 10,000 acres of tidal wetlands in the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. The Southern Gas Association (SGA) awarded the Texas CWRP the Environmental Excellence Award at a

*“Without the cooperation and synergy of federal, state and county governments, removal of the tires and coral reef restoration and protection would be impossible. The government partnerships create a win-win situation for all parties involved in the project. We are most thankful that the state agreed to finance the recycling of the tires and the military has provided the labor and skill necessary to get this job done. It’s unprecedented.”*

Josephus Eggelton  
Mayor of Broward  
County, Florida

Tire Removal Project  
Broward County, FL  
June 2007

ceremony on June 29, 2005. Seven members of the Texas CWRP are also SGA members: Duke Energy Gas Transmission, Panhandle Energy, ConocoPhillips, ENSR International, Horizon Environmental Services, URS Corp, and HRA Gray & Pape. The Bahia Grande project team also received a 2006 Coastal America Partnership award.



*An aerial view of the Bahia Grande pilot channel as tidal flow is restored in July 2005.*

## COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS



*Mexican officials and Coastal America partners gather at the Acuario de Veracruz Designation Ceremony on June 14, 2007.*

### Acuario de Veracruz

On June 14, 2007, Coastal America designated the Acuario de Veracruz as the 20th CELC, making it the first International CELC and the fourth CELC in the Gulf of Mexico region. The designation was presented by Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary of DOI and received by Fidel Herrera, Governor of the State of Veracruz. Upon designation, Coastal America federal partners committed library and educational materials, an Ocean Today kiosk, assistance with exhibits and curriculum development, seminar exchange programs, and technical support. In addition, four CELCs committed to providing staff training and educational resources in programmatic areas of particular importance to the aquarium. The CWRP committed to providing travel support for aquarium staff to visit these CELC partner institutions for the training. Incorporating

Acuario de Veracruz into Coastal America's unique CELC network further enhances resource and knowledge sharing, and provides a critical link that enhances the diversity of the network.

The Acuario de Veracruz is Latin America's largest aquarium, housing nearly 2,200 aquatic animals from around the world and 1,225,000 gallons of fresh and marine water. Since its opening in 1992, the aquarium's mission has been to enhance appreciation of the aquatic world by promoting the conservation of natural resources with educational programs and research projects. In November 2007, three Acuario de Veracruz staff members traveled to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago for marine mammal and education training with support from the CWRP. This valuable training enabled them to improve their current programs.

### Audubon Aquarium of the Americas

On October 29, 2008 Coastal America designated the Audubon Nature Institute's Aquarium of the Americas as the network's 22nd Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. The designation ceremony was held at the Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans, LA. The designating official for the ceremony, Mr. John Paul Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), welcomed the Aquarium of the Americas to the CELC network. Also in attendance at the ceremony was U.S. Congressman Steven Scalise who welcomed everyone to Louisiana.

The designation of the Aquarium is significant not only because it is an excellent education and outreach facility but also because it completes a Gulf of Mexico network of CELCs. Now, every Gulf of Mexico state and Mexico has a learning center. As the Gulf region's sixth Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center, the Aquarium of the Americas designation ceremony marks an important milestone in our national effort to improve the public's understanding and appreciation of Gulf of Mexico issues and resources. The partnership that has been forged between the Aquarium and Coastal America will help to enhance the communication between the CELCs in the Gulf and the rest of the country to promote ocean education and understanding among the public.

### Dauphin Island Sea Lab

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab conducts cutting-edge marine scientific research and packages that information into general marine and estuarine education and outreach messages for the public. Since 2005, the Sea Lab has established a program

to monitor manatees and launched another program called Dockwatch that encourages the community to help stop the spread of an invasive jellyfish from Australia (neither species are native to Mobile Bay). By involving the public in the Sea Lab's various monitoring and research programs, scientists can determine why these animals are in the bay and provide the public with information about impacts on local ecosystems.



*The Coastal America Partners with AmeriCorps Volunteers at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.*

In 2006 the Sea Lab hosted an AmeriCorps NCCC team, which completed maintenance and repair work throughout the campus. In turn, student volunteers learned about coastal and ocean issues at the Sea Lab's estuarium. Coastal America partners surveyed the work completed and interacted with the volunteers while visiting the lab during the 2006 Coastal America Annual Meeting.

**The Florida Aquarium**

The Florida Aquarium (FLAQ) offers programs that bring together teachers, students, scientists, and agency personnel to bridge the gap between the scientific community and environmental leaders of tomorrow. Through programs such as the annual Regional Oceans Conference for Students, and other initiatives made possible through an Institute of Museum and Library Services Leadership Grant and partnerships with local agencies, FLAQ educates



*Visitors enjoy the Sea Turtle exhibit at The Florida Aquarium.*

students about the story of Florida's waters from source to sea. A new exhibit gallery *Aquariumania* (Crazy about Fish Tanks) was opened in 2006 and teacher workshops on acquiring and maintaining a classroom aquarium are held on a regular basis.

FLAQ also works in collaboration with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to propagate Caribbean coral in an ongoing effort to restore and conserve coral reef systems in the region. The project

team received a 2007 partnership award for their efforts. Additionally, FLAQ continues to work on a restored Tampa Bay spoil island, providing ongoing maintenance of native species that supplanted invasive species removed by FLAQ and its community partners. Education programming on the island is ongoing in collaboration with the local school system. FLAQ recently formed an internal "Green Team" to implement environmental practices and promote a more conservation-oriented facility.

**Conference on Ocean Literacy 2006**

In 2006 the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center hosted the gulf regional workshop for the Conference on Ocean Literacy. Professionals from across the Gulf of Mexico participated in the regional web-cast of the national event held in Washington, DC. Research scientists, formal and informal educators from multiple education networks, marine resource personnel, policy makers, representatives from the media, and economic development experts met to discuss issues and set a path for the future of ocean literacy in the Gulf of Mexico.

*"The Coastal America Partnership created this innovative network so that the general public, especially younger citizens as future stewards of our coasts, can better understand how human activities can affect the environment along our shorelines."*

P. Lynn Scarlett  
Deputy Secretary,  
U.S. Department of the  
Interior

Acuario de Veracruz  
Designation Ceremony  
June 7, 2007

### J.L. Scott Marine Education Center-Gulf Coast Research Laboratory of The University of Southern Mississippi

On November 2, 2007 Coastal America designated the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center (MEC), the 21<sup>st</sup> CELC. First Lady Laura Bush presented the keynote address welcoming the MEC to the CELC network. The designation ceremony was presided over by James L. Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality, and Chair of the Coastal America Partnership. Also in attendance at the event was Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, U.S. DOI, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, and other federal, state and local officials. During her remarks, Mrs. Bush announced a new Administration initiative to address the problem of marine debris. Coastal America federal agencies, the CWRP and the CELC network presented key commitments to collaborate and provide assistance to the MEC in areas such as staff and teacher training, professional development, education initiatives, exhibit and curriculum development, site visits and tours, seminar exchange programs, technical support, an Ocean Today kiosk, and the rebuilding of the MEC's library resources.



White House photo by Shealah Craighead

*Mrs. Laura Bush visits with Tacon Elementary fifth graders prior to delivering remarks at the J.L. Scott MEC designation ceremony. The students learned about the importance of prevention, reducing, and removal of ocean and coastal debris. Mrs. Bush is accompanied by Governor Haley Barbour, at left.*

### Texas State Aquarium

The Texas State Aquarium (TSA) opened its newly renovated Living Shores gallery in April 2006. The Living Shores exhibit focuses on the rich and unique resources of the Laguna Madre ecosystem of South Texas. The TSA is planning another addition to the aquarium in the form of touch screen kiosks. These kiosks, which will be made possible through funding from the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program, allow visitors to explore the vital role that estuaries, seagrass beds, and barrier islands play in the ecology of the ocean.

The TSA is very active in marine mammal recovery and rehabilitation. In the wake of the 2005 hurricane season, TSA staff rescued and rehabilitated a stranded Rough Toothed dolphin, Noah, from the Gulf of Mexico. When Noah recovered, TSA contacted Coastal America for assistance in coordinating his transport to another facility, Gulf World in Florida. Coastal America sought support from an Air Force Reserves crew and the expertise of the Navy's Marine Mammal Program on how to safely transport Noah. The transport provided a valuable training exercise for the Air Force Reserves crew as well as the Navy's Marine Mammal Program.



*After the TSA rescued and rehabilitated the stranded dolphin Noah, the U.S. Air Force Reserves transferred the dolphin.*



*The TSA assisted in the recovery of over one hundred green sea turtles in January 2007.*

In January 2007, TSA staff assisted in the recovery of over 100 green sea turtles that were part of the largest sea turtle stranding on record in the western Gulf of Mexico. The response spurred a coordinated rescue effort involving federal, state, local, and private resources. Forty-three of the animals were transported to the TSA, where they received medical care. As a result of extensive collaboration of these partners, the turtles were rehabilitated and returned to the wild in the Gulf of Mexico.

On January 3, 2007, a manatee was discovered in the Corpus Christi shipping channel, having lost its way from the Gulf off western Florida. Staff from the TSA partnered with federal agencies to recover the marine mammal and arrange for its transport to Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo.

# Southwest

## *The Southwest Region*

- California



## SOUTHWEST REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The SWRIT has focused its efforts on supporting California’s coastal and ocean priorities. The SWRIT has identified approximately 40 projects specifically associated with marine, estuarine, and fisheries restoration. In the near term, the team is focused on promoting partnerships and projects that can be advanced through agency coordination and cooperation. The team supported the Bolsa Chica Restoration

project, which restored this critical tidal salt marsh ecosystem, and received a 2007 partnership award for their efforts. The SWRIT continues to actively pursue IRT projects, such as the San Francisco Bay wetlands restoration project and the project to remove the San Clemente Dam in the Carmel River Valley. The SWRIT is dedicated to supporting the two regional learning centers: the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

### California World Ocean Conference 2006

The California Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Coastal Conservancy Association co-chaired the international “California and the World Ocean Conference 2006” in Long Beach. Prior to the conference, the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) developed a strategic plan to improve the protection and management of California’s ocean and coastal resources. The OPC strategic plan, completed in June 2006, allowed conference participants from academia, government, industry, and the public to share ideas and discuss how California should implement and attain the goals outlined in the plan.



*Dr. Sylvia Earle and Jean-Michel Cousteau with Former Southwest Regional Chair Paul Michel at the CWRP reception held during the California World Ocean Conference in 2006.*

## CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

### California CWRP

The San Francisco Oyster Restoration Program was kicked off on July 25, 2005, at the Marin Rod and Gun Club Pier on San Francisco Bay. Sponsored by NOAA’s Restoration Center, Coastal America’s SWRIT partners implemented a strategic action plan for the restoration of oyster habitats in San Francisco Bay. The CA CWRP chapter financed the purchase of shells, which were placed in subtidal areas off the Marin Rod and Gun Club Pier and Brai Island Refuge.



*The San Francisco Oyster Restoration Program kick-off at the Marin Rod and Gun Club Pier on San Francisco Bay.*

*“California is blessed with 1,100 miles of beautiful coastline and \$46 billion of the state’s gross state product in 2004 was generated from ocean and coastal related industries. The fact is...we are inextricably linked to the ocean. We must take action to protect our coastal and ocean resources. Effective public-private partnerships will be critical to this effort.”*

**Mike Chrisman**  
California’s Secretary for Resources

California and the World Ocean Conference, 2006

The CA CWRP continues to reach out to companies to expand their team, which currently consists of five companies and one non-profit partner. The CA CWRP is concentrating on building strength and cohesion among its current members to create a successful foundation from which future projects can be launched.

## COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

### The Aquarium of the Pacific

The Aquarium of the Pacific (AOP) in Long Beach, California, is dedicated to promoting ocean literacy among the general public and continues to focus on providing quality marine science education and interpretation to local schools. On June 15, 2005, approximately 60 leading marine scientists from Southern California met at the AOP in a Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) - sponsored workshop. The objective of the meeting was to outline what they thought every person in Southern California should know about the ocean in order to be deemed “ocean literate.” In addition to workshops such as this, the Aquarium conducts off-site interpretation for students and the public through their Aquarium on Wheels program. This program allows easy transport of materials necessary to teach marine education to students pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The Aquarium also is an active participant in the California “Thank You Ocean” Campaign to improve ocean literacy in the state.



*The “Thank You Ocean” campaign was designed to instill in Californians a sense of personal connection and responsibility to our ocean and coast.*

### Conference on Ocean Literacy 2006

The AOP hosted the western regional workshop for the Conference on Ocean Literacy. Over 120 people participated in the event, representing organizations from Oregon to San Diego, California, many of whom were not previously aware of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan and the Ocean Literacy effort. The workshop facilitated development of a strategy to increase awareness of and priorities for ocean science literacy.

### The Monterey Bay Aquarium

The Monterey Bay Aquarium continues to work with local communities through programs such as Mar y Campo (Sea and Field). Monterey Bay Aquarium’s partnership with the communities of Watsonville and Pajaro continues to have positive impacts on youth and the environment. The WATCH Program (Watsonville Area Teens Conserving Habitats) allows high school participants to earn academic credit and partner with local scientists and conservationists to evaluate and address the impacts of marine debris, agricultural runoff, conservation actions, and various biological agents on local threatened species.

In partnership with zoos, aquariums, and other institutions across the country, the Monterey Bay Aquarium has put over 22 million *Seafood Watch* pocket guides in the hands of consumers; 9 million guides were included in the 2007 DVD release of the Academy Award–winning animated film *Happy Feet*, and tens of thousands of guides are printed each year directly from the website [www.seafoodwatch.org](http://www.seafoodwatch.org).

## INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

The IRT Program will soon aid in the demolition of the San Clemente Dam in the Carmel River in Carmel, California. Discussions are taking place between the NMFS Southwest Region and the State of California to establish a partnership with the California American Water Company to expedite dam removal, stream realignment, and road management in the project area. Transfer of ownership of the dam to the state or the formation of a Joint Powers Agreement is needed in order for the IRT to conduct the project.

*“The Aquarium of the Pacific is proud to be a member of the Coastal America CELC network. Working with the federal partners, this innovative network of aquariums and science centers is providing important and timely information to over 25 million visitors each year. We believe that the successful conservation of our ocean and coastal resources depends upon an informed citizenry. Through a variety of programs such as this Conference on Ocean Literacy, regional workshops, and educational exhibits, we are working to ensure an ocean literate society.”*

Jerry R. Schubel  
 President & CEO,  
 Aquarium of the Pacific

Conference on Ocean  
 Literacy  
 2006



# Northwest

## *The Northwest Region*

- Idaho
- Oregon
- Washington

## **NORTHWEST REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**

In January 2006 the NWRIT convened a Coastal America Regional Principals meeting in Seattle. The goal of the meeting was to reintroduce regional leadership to the Coastal America partnership and the tools available for support of coastal protection and restoration. The meeting focused on developing leadership and participation to prepare for the implementation of the Coastal

America Strategic Plan. Regional principals reaffirmed their commitment to the partnership and identified staff members to participate on the NWRIT. Several agencies formalized their commitments of staff time to NWRIT participation and/or leadership.

The NWRIT is working closely with their non-governmental and private sector partners to support the establishment of a Northwest CWRP chapter. The team continues to involve the Oregon National Guard through use of the IRT program on select efforts that both preserve valuable coastal habitats and provide the military with essential training opportunities. Guard reservists are able to practice heavy equipment operations as they manipulate coastal dune areas, assisting with the natural resource agencies’ goal of eliminating invasive species.

## **COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS**

### **Hatfield Marine Science Center**

The Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) of Oregon State University in Newport collaborated with the Oregon Aquarium to establish a co-partnership CELC at a June 2005 designation ceremony. The HMSC was designated as a CELC in 1998, the Oregon Aquarium’s close proximity to the HMSC and their shared goals allowed for inclusion of the Aquarium into the CELC network as HMSC’s partner facility. The collaboration of the HMSC research center and the Oregon Aquarium offers dynamic education possibilities for research and outreach projects that reach a broad audience.

The HMSC is devoted to developing their educational programs and conveying messages of ocean literacy to the public. In February 2005, the HMSC opened a new invasive species exhibit, “Invasion of the Habitat Snatcher”, which was supported by NOAA’s National Sea Grant. The exhibit was designed to increase public understanding of how invasive species enter and affect new environments, the factors that influence an invader’s success, and how to prevent future invasions.

The HMSC held its 4th annual “SeaFest” in conjunction with its 40th Anniversary in July 2005. “SeaFest” allowed the local community to learn about marine science and to explore and interact with the HMSC. Federal partners supported the 40th anniversary event in 2005, as well as the 2006 and 2007 “SeaFests”, by providing valuable information to the thousands of visitors who attend the festival. The “SeaFest” team received the Coastal America Spirit Award in 2005. For more information on this project see Appendix I.

### The Seattle Aquarium “Citizen Science” Program

The Seattle Aquarium’s “Citizen Science” program was awarded a 2007 Spirit Award for their work to recruit, train, and support volunteer involvement in scientifically credible conservation work. Through its citizen scientists, the Aquarium hopes to raise public awareness of ocean habitats and increase scientific understanding of local saltwater beaches. More information on this project is provided in Appendix I.

### AmeriCorps NCCC Signature Project

In April 2006 in celebration of Earth Day, Coastal America and AmeriCorps NCCC launched over 20 signature projects nationwide to restore and protect our nation’s coasts while teaching the principles of ocean literacy. In Seattle, AmeriCorps volunteers produced iPod broadcasts of community conservation messages. The team organized community volunteers to facilitate Earth Day events throughout Seattle. These events involved multiple federal, state, local, and private partners.



*Community members participate in the Seattle Aquarium’s “Citizen Science” program.*

## INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

### Derelict Fishing Net Removal

The 2006–2007 field season for derelict fishing net removal marks one of Coastal America’s most complex joint-services IRT projects to date. The Department of Defense asked Coastal America to prioritize complex projects that involve the full range of services participating in a single initiative.

In Puget Sound, Army, Navy, and Navy Reserves divers, Army Reserves watercraft crews, Air Force Reserves air crews, Navy search and rescue helicopter crews, and Coast Guard small boat crews participated in the joint-services mission; practicing numerous skills identified on their Mission Essential Training Lists. But the military did not work in a vacuum. Coastal America provided a forum that allowed NOAA’s Marine Debris Program, the NOAA Dive Center, the Northwest Straits Commission, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and several additional partners to work with the military on this marine debris removal project.



*Derelict fishing nets being removed in Washington State’s Puget Sound.*



*The IRT program completed the Yaquina Bay Shoreline revetment project in 2007.*

### Erosion Control Project – Hatfield Marine Science Center Estuary Trail

The HMSC collaborated with the Oregon Army National Guard IRT Program to complete an erosion control project in March 2007. The erosion on the shoreline of Yaquina Bay in Newport had forced the closure of the HMSC’s public estuary trail and threatened nearby infrastructure. A gravel beach that served as a “dynamic revetment” was planned, approved, and completed in March 2007. This gravel beach maintains the shorelines’ natural and aesthetic values while providing much greater resistance to wave action than existing sand and sediments. A second phase of the project, to re-establish an artificial dune with native grasses and other indigenous plants, is being planned.

# Upper Mississippi/ Great Lakes

## *The Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Region*

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

## THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI/GREAT LAKES REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes RIT concentrates on education efforts through their regional CELCs, the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, and the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. These CELCs convey important messages through exhibits,

educational workshops, and other ocean literacy outreach efforts. Both the Shedd Aquarium and the Mississippi River Museum received 2007 Coastal America Special Recognition Awards for their outstanding educational efforts on the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River watershed. The regional team is also working to establish a CWRP in the Great Lakes.

## COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

### 2006 Conference on Ocean Literacy

In the Midwest, the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, hosted 70 attendees from 28 museums and 10 Mississippi River states for the simulcast of the national Conference on Ocean Literacy (CoOL). Participants included educators, students, and museum staff, as well as representatives from the NPS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. FWS, Sierra Club, Health Department, and religious organizations. The conference in Dubuque focused on ocean literacy, rivers, employing a network of ocean interpretive stations, restoration benchmarks, and communication strategies for the Mississippi River, as well as developing exhibits to change public mindsets. The results of the Dubuque conference are now being incorporated into the Education Action Plan for the Midwest.

The John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago hosted 60 representatives from the Great Lakes Region (including Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, and Canada) for their regional Conference on Ocean Literacy. One panel highlighted actions to increase informal education programs in the Great Lakes region. A second panel presented community engagement philosophies and shared strategies from several Great Lakes organizations. The conference also provided unique opportunities for Great Lakes regional networking.

### AmeriCorps NCCC Signature Projects

The River Museum coordinated AmeriCorps NCCC members and community volunteers to spray-paint environmental awareness messages on storm drains. The stencils read, “Drains to creek, Drains to river, Drains to Gulf.” The primary intention of this project was to raise awareness of non-point source pollution and of ocean connections.



*“By connecting students who live in the Mississippi River watershed to the Gulf of Mexico and the oceans of the world we can inspire the next generation about their role in protecting our intricate ecosystems.”*

Jerry Enzler, Executive Director, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

NMRM & A Student Ocean Conference  
May 18, 2005

### **John G. Shedd Aquarium**

The Shedd Aquarium's vision is a Great Lakes watershed that is healthy, well-understood, and internationally cherished. Shedd's five-year goal is to raise public awareness of Great Lakes issues while providing inspiration and opportunity for action, a goal that is articulated in the Great Lakes Conservation Awareness Initiative. A natural extension of Shedd Aquarium's long-standing conservation mission, this initiative leverages Shedd's core strengths in communication, exhibits, education, audience and community reach with its location on the shore of Lake Michigan in the largest metropolitan area in the Great Lakes region.

As a world leader in conservation education, the Shedd Aquarium directorate took a lead role in regional education by creating a new permanent exhibit featuring invasive species impacts on the Great Lakes. The exhibit was designed to display the creatures causing so much havoc on the Great Lakes, including the Asian carp, round gobies, zebra mussels, and others. In 2007 Shedd also launched a new public awareness campaign about the threats facing the Great Lakes environment. This campaign ran in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan and consisted of newspaper, magazine, television, radio, and online advertising, and festival banners for Chicago's Venetian Night.

### **National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium**

The River Museum has hosted a series of important workshops and sponsored volunteer restoration projects to address key ocean and river issues. Working with NOAA, they brought together scientists, biologists, educators, and river conservationists from institutions such as the National Audubon Society, Loras College, and University of Dubuque for a Marine Protected Areas Workshop in 2005. Later that year, the River Museum held a student conference sponsored by National Geographic and the Sustainable Seas Expedition. Over 150 students and teachers from Iowa and neighboring states learned how activities of the Mississippi River watershed affect the Gulf of Mexico and the ocean. In May 2005, 33 river-focused organizations met in Dubuque for a Mississippi River Restoration Collaborative Assessment and Planning Workshop. A Mississippi River Vision was developed to address three issues affecting the health of the watershed: water, land, and people.

Most recently, the River Museum has been working to create a national awareness campaign for the Mississippi River and the importance of the river to our future. The River Museum has coordinated 35 national and regional stewardship organizations who are now working together to achieve these goals. Additionally, the River Museum has been leading an effort to develop a restoration plan for the river that will identify key outcomes for the Mississippi River to the Gulf based on scientifically sound benchmarks for land, water, and people; unite organizations along the river with strong internal communication tools; engage key partners from the river community at large; and develop a public awareness campaign for the River to raise awareness of the value of the Mississippi River, its communities, tributaries, bluff lands, and the coastal delta.

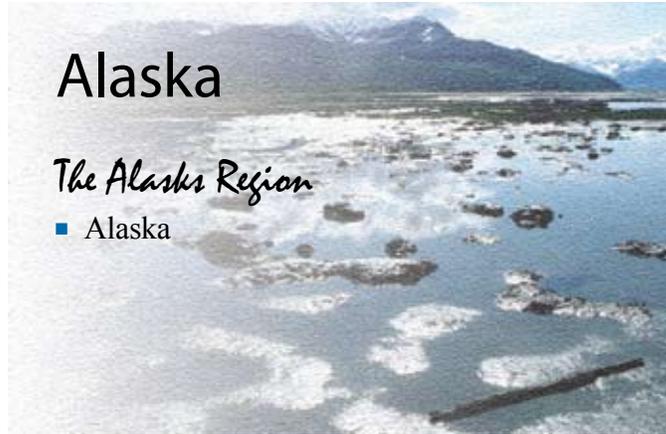


*Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water, U.S. EPA (2nd left) joins Jerry Enzler, Executive Director, River Museum (2nd right) and local officials to welcome Americorps volunteers who participated in a river restoration project.*

# Alaska

## *The Alaska Region*

- Alaska



## ALASKA REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The AKRIT's goal is to build partnerships to complete projects that protect, preserve, and restore Alaska's coastal environment, including wetlands and anadromous rivers. The AKRIT provides a forum where agencies come together as partners under the themes of habitat restoration

and protection, assisting species at risk, pollution prevention, environmentally sound resource management, sustainable development, and public education. The AKRIT defines the coastal area to include inland water bodies that support anadromous fish. In this extensive area, projects have been successfully completed and many more are in the initial stages of planning and implementation. These projects continue to benefit freshwater anadromous fish habitats, nearshore marine habitats, and migratory bird and marine mammal populations. Past projects include a Conservation Agreement and Program to protect rare plant species, watershed and riparian restoration and rehabilitation, habitat protection and enhancement, technology transfer, and training and education. New projects continue to focus on these topics as well as pollution prevention and data collection.

The AKRIT gained new leadership in 2006 and also welcomed new representatives to the team from several partner agencies. The change in leadership and growth of partners has enhanced the capabilities and enthusiasm of the team. AKRIT endorsed 10 new projects in 2006, including a wide range of activities that involve the protection and restoration of coastal resources. AKRIT made a series of presentations at the annual Alaska Forum on the Environment to highlight projects under way and discuss opportunities for new projects. Additionally, the Alaska Regional Principals endorsed a strategic plan for 2007–2010 that identifies regional goals and objectives, and details the annual tasks needed to accomplish them. The plan is endorsed by the AKRIT in coordination with the Alaska CWRP and the Alaska Sea Life Center, Alaska's sole designated CELC.

## CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

One of the projects supported by the AK CWRP is the Resurrection Creek Restoration. Historic hydraulic mining practices disconnected the Resurrection Valley watershed from its anadromous tributary of upper Cook Inlet, thus altering the spawning and rearing habitats for five species of Pacific Salmon. This project combined philanthropy efforts of the Youth Restoration Corps with state and federal resource agencies to restore 2.25 miles of Resurrection Creek back to its natural meandering pattern. The project included restoration



*The Youth Restoration Corps with state and federal resource agencies work to restore Resurrection Creek in Alaska.*

*“I am encouraged by the Signature Project undertaken by Americorps NCCC and Coastal America to foster volunteerism in environmental protection. The NCCC will be planting wetlands along the riverbank and stenciling storm drains throughout Dubuque. The NCCC’s efforts will help remind the public that local impacts can affect over 2000 miles of waterways.”*

Benjamin Grumbles  
Assistant Administrator  
for Water, US EPA

Earth Day Event and  
Americorps NCCC  
Ceremony, National  
Mississippi River  
Museum & Aquarium,  
April 22, 2006

of the salmon spawning substrate, associated pools, perennial side channels, and vegetation that collectively makes up the healthy riparian ecosystem of Resurrection Creek.

The Alaska CWRP Chapter devoted time to reviewing projects, selecting effective outreach efforts, expanding membership, and evaluating projects for future support. The AK CWRP held several meetings and has become more involved with the AKRIT. Together they published an article in the December 2006 issue of the Resource Development Council for Alaska Newsletter to advocate the Partnership and boost corporate participation. The article highlighted the accomplishments of the CWRP in Alaska since its launch in 2002. In February 2007, the AK CWRP held a recruitment meeting in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment Conference.

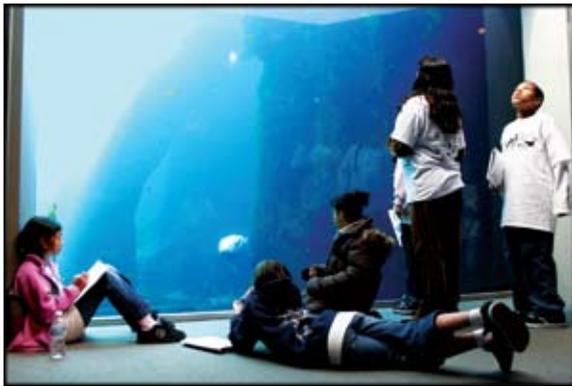


*Alaska CWRP supports the Moose Creek fish passage restoration project in coordination with the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council.*

## COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER

### Alaska SeaLife Center

The Alaska SeaLife Center is a non-profit marine science facility dedicated to understanding and maintaining the integrity of the marine ecosystem of Alaska through research, rehabilitation, and public education. The Center's research facilities and naturalistic exhibits immerse visitors in the dynamic marine ecosystems of Alaska. One current study is assessing the relationship between fish populations and harbor seal feeding patterns, including an evaluation of food sources and climate conditions. Since the mid 1970s harbor seal pods have been declining in the Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound. Researchers at the SeaLife Center are trying to determine whether the decline of fatty fish populations affect seal populations. The Center is also actively involved in the development of Alaska's ocean observing system.



*Anchorage School District students participate in Alaska SeaLife Center's Sea Train Program.*

The SeaLife Center has also partnered with the Anchorage School District (ASD) to teach 5th grade students about energy-related and ocean issues in the Anchorage region while aboard the Sea Train in 2007. The Sea Train, using Alaska Railroad cars as mobile classrooms, provides a science-based learning experience designed by a team of educators from ASD and the SeaLife Center. It goes far beyond a traditional field trip by combining energy-related activities

with teacher training, assessment tools, and printed materials that reinforce key concepts. While students are transported beyond their schools and neighborhoods to the SeaLife Center, they can take advantage of the journey to explore and investigate science concepts.

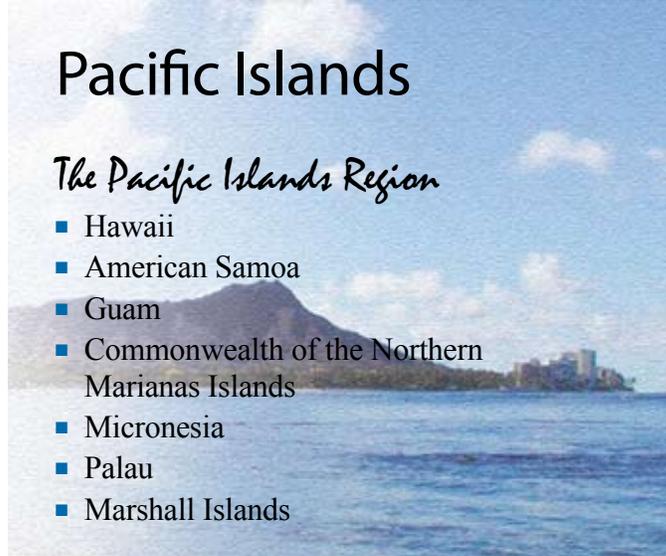
## INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

The AKRIT recently endorsed a new project that ties together several marine debris removal efforts by multiple agencies and non-profit groups. AKRIT is investigating whether some of these efforts might be enhanced by involving the military's IRT program to provide reconnaissance and logistical support to remove large quantities of debris from remote areas along Alaska's coast.

## Pacific Islands

### *The Pacific Islands Region*

- Hawaii
- American Samoa
- Guam
- Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands
- Micronesia
- Palau
- Marshall Islands



### PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The PIRIT participated in the Annual Hawaii Fishing and Seafood Festival, in October 2007. The one-day event, held on the Honolulu Waterfront, brought together over 50 vendors and exhibitors representing federal and state agencies, fishing gear manufacturers and suppliers, boating clubs, seafood distributors and markets,

and entertainers. The event hosted 20,000 attendees of all ages and was spearheaded by NOAA in cooperation with the Waikiki Aquarium CELC. Regional activities of the National Weather Service, NOAA Pacific Service Center, and NOAA's Marine Debris Program were highlighted during the event.

A central focus of the PIRIT is education through partnerships with the Waikiki Aquarium CELC and the University of Hawaii, Honolulu. The Aquarium has enhanced their facilities with new exhibits, such as the invasive seaweed outdoor exhibit developed in 2005. The Aquarium also works with the local community on education projects and hosts and attends national education conferences.

Although a CWRP has not yet been established in the Pacific Islands Region, the PIRIT is seeking interested participants among its regional corporations to establish a CWRP chapter. Once organized, the PI CWRP will garner the resources of private industry to support restoration projects and education programs.



*Visitors gather at the Hawaii Fishing and Seafood Festival in October 2007.*

### COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER

#### **Waikiki Aquarium/University of Hawaii**

The Waikiki Aquarium, part of the University of Hawaii, is dedicated to marine education. The aquarium uses its partners to educate the public about invasive species, conservation, the rich history and culture of Pacific Island ecology, and other marine issues. Concerned with the issue of invasive species, the Waikiki Aquarium installed an interactive outdoor display on



*Students participate in the first annual Mo'i Release during an Earth Day celebration in 2006.*

*“Marine debris is one of the greatest ocean challenges we face, even in remote areas of the Hawaiian Archipelago and the Alaskan Coast. The good news is that there are actions we can take to help solve this serious problem.”*

**Dr. Sylvia Earle**  
National Geographic Explorer in Residence and Coastal America Foundation Trustee

Statement Released July 2008

invasive seaweeds in November 2005. Made possible through an EPA grant, the exhibit has a conservation/environmental awareness theme and was designed to overlook the Marine Life Conservation District behind the Aquarium.

In 2005 and 2006, the NOAA Pacific Service Center provided funding to the PIRIT, which was used to further the education work started by the Waikiki Aquarium. This allowed the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) program to expand its support to include the University of Hawaii's Marine Option Program and the Observer Training Center at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. The project was an outgrowth of the PIRIT co-chair's experiences and observations while working with Yup'ik and Aleut Eskimo villages in southwest Alaska. The CELC project was timely, given interest in ocean literacy and the development of the CELC network as a vehicle for giving voice to native peoples. In a continuation of the TEK program, the Waikiki Aquarium held a Seasons and the Sea outreach event that was supported by Coastal America. This project established a method for preliminary identification of local sources of ocean-related TEK and is researching ways that CELCs can distribute the information.



*Students release moi fish at the Waikiki Aquarium.*

The Aquarium conducted its first release of the locally significant moi fish in celebration of Earth Day 2006, and plans to make this an annual event. Local volunteers released tagged moi and received a certificate with the tag number on it. The purpose of the release is to instill stewardship by involving youth in the restocking effort. Cooperating partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services, the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Anuenue Fisheries Research Center.

## INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

The PIRIT actively seeks opportunities for IRT involvement. The PIRIT has considered federal-island government projects that offer collaborative benefits unique to the Pacific Islands community. The kinds of projects related to the IRT in the Pacific Islands include the PIRIT partnering with NOAA's Marine Debris Program to address the enormous problem of marine debris in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and the main Hawaiian Islands. Other partnerships with the military include the planned use of military volunteers representing multiple military branches in the restoration of an ancient Hawaiian fish pond listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.



*Team members from NOAA's Marine Debris Program remove marine debris at the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Other marine debris removal efforts are underway in the main Hawaiian Islands.*

## III. THE FUTURE OF COASTAL AMERICA

For over 15 years, the Coastal America partnership has worked to restore, preserve and protect our nation's coastal and marine environment. By leveraging resources, expertise and authorities of the federal agencies with state, tribal and local governments and non-governmental organizations, the partnership has accomplished big tasks that no single organization could alone. The partnership's national and regional structure provides an effective mechanism to facilitate the development of shared solutions. Initiatives such as the CELC network, CWRP, IRT and the partnership's awards program are valuable tools for implementing and encouraging collaborative action. The partnership intends to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead and will continue to facilitate regional ecosystem approaches to the management of our coastal and ocean resources.

### Improving Ocean Literacy

A focal point of the Coastal America Partnership is the CELC network. This network of aquaria, marine science centers, and universities is a unique and valuable educational partnership for action. In 2004, the President's Ocean Action Plan called for the expansion of the CELC network. Coastal America is following this directive and is working with various institutions to strengthen and expand the CELC network. In the future, they will continue to develop new network-wide initiatives that will help our nation achieve ambitious goals for improving ocean literacy. The network will also collaborate with its federal and corporate partners to develop and implement international projects and activities to promote awareness and encourage environmental stewardship of our shared marine resources.

The CELC network will also build stronger relationships with its corporate partners within the CWRP. Collaboration between the CELC network and the CWRP will enable the CWRP to better contribute their resources to the excellent education initiatives executed by the CELCs. The CWRP's in-kind and financial assistance will benefit both the CELC network and its corporate partners. The CELC network will benefit by gaining new partners for some of their most innovative and challenging initiatives. The corporate partners will benefit by giving back to their communities and serving as advocates for environmental awareness and stewardship.

### Increasing Corporate Involvement

As Coastal America looks toward the future, the CWRP will continue to provide a unique opportunity for environmentally responsible companies to contribute directly to the restoration and protection of precious estuaries, marshlands, and other aquatic habitats. CWRP's results-driven habitat restoration efforts—including dam removals and fish passage improvements, invasive species control, threatened and endangered species protection, marine debris abatement, and research and monitoring—will continue to expand throughout the country. Looking to the future, the CWRP will strengthen its existing state chapters, seek out new corporate partners, develop new and innovative programs, and track and publicize successful restoration and protection accomplishments.

While the program has always recognized the importance of raising awareness about the need to protect and restore sensitive coasts and inland watersheds, the CWRP has recently increased its commitment to education and outreach through its partnership with members of the CELC network. By concentrating its efforts on the CELCs' educational initiatives, the CWRP is creating environmental and ocean stewards across the nation. The CWRP plans to increase its coordination and collaboration with the CELCs, as well as with other educational

*“I think that Coastal America is the best bargain in environmental restoration and protection across the U.S. government.”*

James L. Connaughton  
Chairman, White  
House Council on  
Environmental Quality  
and Chair of Coastal  
America

Interagency Committee  
on Ocean Science and  
Resource Management  
Integration Meeting  
August 2, 2007

institutions, and to forge more creative and expansive partnerships with non-profit organizations as it moves into a new phase of coastal and inland ecosystem restoration, preservation, and educational activities.

### **Aligning Environmental Needs with Military Training**

During these challenging economic times, efficiencies in government are more important than ever. Coastal America will continue to seek out solutions for coastal environmental projects that languish due to a lack of funding or expertise. Some of these needs can be met by aligning projects with the military's need to provide high-quality, real-world training. The IRT program's leadership and the efforts of each military service's IRT program manager will remain a key ingredient as we find ways to facilitate more projects that simultaneously benefit the war fighter's training goals and the environmental needs of coastal communities.

### **Recognizing Excellence**

Coastal America seeks to achieve its mission objectives by encouraging effective and innovative partnership efforts. Through its awards program, the partnership recognizes multi-agency project teams, collaborative organizations, and effective leaders. Innovative projects that address complex coastal restoration and protection problems through teamwork and cooperative conservation provide valuable models for future efforts. Coastal America will continue to recognize outstanding partnership efforts and identify "lessons learned."

### **Working Together to Reach Our Common Goals**

The effective management of our nations coastal and ocean resources will require a collaborative approach that is developed within an ecosystem and watershed context. Recognizing this challenge the partnership will continue to encourage collaborative efforts in shared water bodies and coalition building from the rivers to the sea. The CELC network is a valuable resource in this effort. For example, the inclusion of the Acuario de Veracruz in the network is helping forge a partnership with Mexico to address the problems of our shared Gulf as outlined in the Governors regional action plan. Additionally, the partnership will continue to encourage the development of watershed-based coalitions and regional networks such as the initiative in the Mississippi River/Gulf region.

Looking to the future, Coastal America will continue to seek innovative solutions to the shared problems of our coastal and marine environment. Working with state and local agencies, non-governmental organizations and our corporate partners, the regional teams will facilitate the development of multi-faceted partnerships focused on specific issues. We will also support evolving regional ocean governance structures and implementation of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan objectives.



# APPENDIX I: 2005–2007 PARTNERSHIP AWARD SUMMARIES

## AWARD PROGRAM SUMMARIES 2005

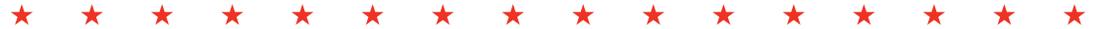
### *Batsto River Fishway Restoration Team, Burlington, New Jersey*



#### PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2005

John Paul Woodley Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, presented the Philadelphia District and its partners with the 2005 Coastal America Partnership Award during a ceremony on the Batsto River in October 17. The team received the award for restoring access to spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish on the Batsto River in Burlington, New Jersey. The installation

of a permanent fishway allows anadromous fish to swim unimpeded around a spillway to access approximately eight miles of historic spawning and foraging areas upstream.



### *Cuddebackville Dam Removal, Orange County, New York*



#### PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2005

Located on the Neversink River in Orange County, New York, this dam was removed in 2004 to benefit surrounding aquatic habitats. J.P. Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, presented a Partnership Award to the project team for restoring access to spawning and rearing habitat for migratory fish. This was the first dam to be removed in New York State for environmental reasons.



### *Drakes Island Salt Marsh Restoration Team, Drakes Island, Maine*



#### PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2005

This team improved and restored 77 acres of salt marsh by enhancing tidal inundation and circulation. This demonstration project included the removal of an undersized culvert and replacement with the first self-regulating tide gate in the state of Maine.



*“Through effective partnerships like this one, we are able to restore habitat that has been degrading for hundreds of years. The addition of the fish ladder will provide recreational opportunities for the more than 250,000 individuals who visit Batsto Village every year.”*

Bradley M. Campbell  
New Jersey Department  
of Environmental  
Protection Commissioner

Batsto River  
Restoration Team  
Partnership Award  
Ceremony  
October 18, 2005

*Fort De Soto Ecosystem Restoration Partnership Team, Ft. De Soto, Florida*



**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2005**

Florida's Pinellas County collaborated with three federal agencies, a state water management agency, two non-profit organizations, and a university to implement this restoration project. This project restored a regional park facility and reopened a historical hydrologic connection that had been closed for nearly 50 years. Approximately 200 acres of submerged vegetation was restored or enhanced as a result of this project.



*Lonsdale Marsh Restoration Team, Lonsdale Marsh, Rhode Island*



**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2005**

This team restored 17 acres of habitat by removing a former drive-in theater within a heavily urbanized watershed. The project created emergent wetlands and a continuous wooded riparian buffer along the Blackstone River, linking important upstream and downstream habitats. In a parallel effort, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation built a bicycle trail adjacent to the restoration site, linking it to the river. J.P. Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works presented the Coastal America Partnership Award to the Lonsdale Marsh Restoration Team.



*Project Creek; Coney Island Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Team, Coney Island, New York*



**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2005**

Alan J. Steinberg (center), Regional Administrator, EPA Region 2, presented the project team with a Partnership Award for this program that highlights the value of linking environmental education and restoration. Local students learned about the ecology of marshes by monitoring fish and crab abundance and physical conditions at the restoration site. Community members improved degraded habitats of Coney Island Creek and gained a sense of environmental stewardship for the area.



*Culebra Island Conservation Coalition, Culebra Island, Puerto Rico*



**SPIRIT AWARD, 2005**

This team established the Luis Peña Channel Natural Reserve in Puerto Rico through a grassroots, consensus-driven process. This no-take marine reserve is protecting 637 hectares of coral reef as well as habitat for endangered sea turtles and finfish. Congressman Luis F. Fortuno (center) received the Spirit Award on behalf of the Culebra Island Conservation Coalition project team.



*Galveston Bay Estuary Program Invasive Species Workgroup (ISWG), Texas*

**SPIRIT AWARD, 2005**

By identifying and removing invasive species, the ISWG has helped to protect and preserve Galveston Bay, Texas. The ISWG also sponsors efforts to restore native species and landscapes impacted by invasive species.



*Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) SeaFest Team, Newport, Oregon*

SPIRIT AWARD, 2005



SeaFest is a collaborative partnership that offers the local community of Newport, Oregon an opportunity to learn about marine science and explore and interact with the HMSC. Federal partners provide support and valuable information to nearly 4,000 visitors in the two-day event each year. The success of this event

earned the SeaFest team a Partnership Award that was presented by Kameran Onley, Assistant Secretary, U.S. DOI, during the 2005 SeaFest.



*International Game and Fishing Association Regional Ocean Conservation Club (ROCC) Dania Beach, Florida*

SPIRIT AWARD, 2005



The ROCC partnered with local middle and high schools, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations to increase public awareness of the importance of healthy oceans and coasts. The ROCC also collected data on fish biodiversity, presented environmental seminars in local schools, and provided informative presentations to the public.



*Maryland Nutria Project, Cambridge, Maryland*

SPIRIT AWARD, 2005



The Maryland Marsh Restoration/Nutria Pilot Project was initiated in 2002. Since then the team has removed thousands of these large invasive rodents from the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The project team set out to better understand the breeding and feeding habits of nutria,

protect the marshland from further degradation caused by the rodent's voracious feeding habits, and determine the best approach to marsh restoration in areas where nutria have been removed and where they remain. The project team was recognized with a Spirit Award that was presented by Timothy R.E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. DOC.



*New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium Habitat Initiative, New Jersey*

SPIRIT AWARD, 2005



The expansion of the Consortium's collaborative Marsh Ecology Research Program into a Habitat Initiative has led to a comprehensive program that includes shovel-in-the-ground research projects and provides invaluable information to decision makers.

*“SeaFest presents an excellent opportunity for the public to learn about the importance of research on the marine environment. With the Hatfield Center’s diversity of academic and agency scientists working side by side, SeaFest participants experience a wide range of scientific activities. As a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center, we are able to share such approaches to outreach across a network of institutions.”*

George Boehlert  
Director, Hatfield Marine Science Center

SeaFest Partnership Award Ceremony  
Newport, Oregon  
June 25, 2005

*Old Inlet Diamondback Terrapin Habitat Restoration Project, Delaware*



**SPIRIT AWARD, 2005**

The Project team received a Spirit Award for restoring critical habitat for the diamondback terrapin and establishing a long-term campaign to protect them. The terrapin is now thriving at the restoration sites and other species are benefiting from the restored coastal habitat. The DE CWRP provided support for the project.



*San Francisco Salt Pond Interim Stewardship Plan, San Francisco Bay, California*



**SPIRIT AWARD, 2005**

The Stewardship Team has helped protect over 16,000 acres of marshlands and shoreline and restored 25 acres of wetlands to their former state. These areas provide important habitat to approximately 100 species of fish, birds, and other wildlife and significantly improved water quality in the region. California Secretary for Natural Resources Mike Chisman (right) and Timothy R.E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere NOAA, US DOC (center) presented the spirit award to the Stewardship Team.



*Southern Maryland Coastal and Aquatic Resource Team, Patuxent River, Maryland*

**SPIRIT AWARD, 2005**

In 2004 the U.S. Navy, St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc., and the National Aquarium in Baltimore CELC signed a cooperative agreement to develop a living shoreline. Over 2,500 feet of shoreline repair and stabilization was completed in early 2005 through the use of sills, breakwaters, groins, and revetments. The site was enhanced through the planting of 33,000 *Spartina*, a species of cord grass that helped restore 1.5 acres of valuable tidal wetland habitat.



*Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG), Mid-Atlantic Region*



**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD, 2005**

Marty Hall (center), Chief of Staff, White House Council on Environmental Quality, presented a Special Recognition Award to PSEG officials for their leadership in wetlands restoration. The company established the CWRP in New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic region. In addition, PSEG's Estuary Enhancement Program represents an innovative approach for resolving complex environmental issues in a way that provides long-term benefits for the ecology, environment, fisheries, wildlife, economy, and people of the region.



## AWARD PROGRAM SUMMARIES 2006

### *"Aquatic Invaders" Invasive Species Outreach Toolkit Team, North Carolina*



#### PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2006

The Aquatic Invaders Team developed a method to educate the public on how to prevent and reduce the spread of invasive species. Timothy R.E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. DOC, presented the award to members of the team, which included CELC partner aquariums in Florida and North Carolina.



### *Bahia Grande Restoration Team, Brownsville, Texas*



#### PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2006

A coalition of over 60 sponsors and supporters partnered to restore the 10,000-acre Bahia Grande complex to a highly productive shallow water ecosystem. The complex includes three estuarine basins between Brownsville and Port Isabel in Cameron County, Texas, and is now one of the largest community-based estuary restoration projects in the country. The restored areas support fish resources and other critical ecosystem functions that depend on tidal flow. Partner contributions include \$130,000 from the Texas CWRP.



### *Branford Supply Ponds Fishway Project, Branford, Connecticut*



#### PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2006

This project team collaborated to help link key habitats and enhance overall watershed functioning throughout Long Island Sound. The fishway they built restored fish access to 86 acres of open water, nine acres of riparian habitat, and five miles of river and stream habitat.



*“PSEG is honored to receive the Coastal America Special Recognition Award. This award underscores the company’s ongoing desire to find innovative ways to help improve the environment.”*

Dr. Ralph Izzo  
President and CEO,  
Public Service Enterprise  
Group

Public Service Enterprise  
Group  
Special Recognition  
Award Ceremony  
April 10, 2007

*Florida Gulf Coast University Oyster Restoration Team, Ft. Myers, Florida*



**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2006**

With the help of more than 600 volunteers donating over 4,300 hours of time, this project team re-established 23 oyster reefs in the estuaries of southwest Florida. In addition to the shell bag restoration efforts, this project also established oyster shell recycling and oyster gardening programs. Dr. Donna Henry accepted the award on behalf of the Team which was presented by Timothy R.E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. DOC, and Dr. Roy Crabtree, Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries Service.



*Seattle Aquarium Citizen Science Team, Seattle, Washington*



**SPIRIT AWARD, 2006**

Mark Plunkett received the Spirit Award presented by Ron Keiesenback, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 10 for the Seattle Aquarium's "Citizen Science" Program. The program is part of a nationwide trend to recruit and train citizens to conduct scientifically credible data collection to promote marine education and increase awareness of habitat conservation and restoration. The main objective is to create a database of information collected by students, teachers, and the general public to be used by scientists to improve understanding of habitat and biodiversity changes over time.



*The Nature Conservancy's Long Island Marine Team, Long Island, New York*

**SPIRIT AWARD, 2006**

This project seeks to restore shellfish populations and subsequent ecosystem functioning across the entire Great South Bay. These efforts have raised awareness in the local community about how all partners can play an active role in marine conservation, and have improved outreach through presentations given by the team and articles published in Long Island newspapers.



*Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Corpus Christi, Texas*

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD, 2006**

The Gulf of Mexico Foundation, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1990 by citizens concerned with the health and productivity of the Gulf. The foundation manages the Gulf of Mexico Community-Based Restoration Partnership which has effectively organized federal & state agencies, communities and non-governmental organizations to implement numerous restoration projects in the Gulf.



**AWARD PROGRAM SUMMARIES 2007**

*Bolsa Chica Wetlands Restoration Team, Huntington Beach, California*



**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2007**

This Restoration Team acquired 948 acres of private property, restored severely degraded wetlands, and recreated a vital tidal salt marsh ecosystem. The team also purchased and removed 64 oil wells to ensure wetland protection into the future. This is the largest and most complex coastal wetland restoration project in southern California. Dr. Dan Walker, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy acknowledged the Team's accomplishments while presenting the Partnership Award to the Team.

*California "Thank You Ocean" Campaign, California*



**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2007**

This California state-wide ocean awareness campaign was designed to spur citizen involvement in ocean protection. A phrase from the campaign explains the concept: "The Ocean takes care of us. Let's return the favor." The campaign was brought to life through professional advertisements, public service announcements and website portal access to ocean information.



*FKNMS Coral Protection and Restoration Program, Key West, Florida*

**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2007**

Team partners include government agencies, public and private aquaria, universities, research labs, and volunteers. The partnership has rescued more than 7,000 coral colonies, which are either relocated, used to educate the public, or used in research that will help protect coral reefs in the future. Some of these specimens will be used to replenish depleted sites, while others are used in the development of baseline genetic banks for experiments and comparisons of corals from different geographic regions.



*Learning in Florida's Environment Program (LIFE), Florida*

**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2007**



The LIFE program team combines the student curriculum with teacher professional development and environmental resource themes. LIFE program sites have been established on public lands in six state parks, two National Estuarine Research Reserves, one national forest, and one national wildlife refuge. Each of these programs is a collaborative effort between Florida's Office of Environmental Education, the host site, a partner school, volunteers, and partners.



*Woodlands Trail and Park Restoration Team, Belle Chasse, Louisiana*



**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2007**

In the metropolitan New Orleans area, collaborative efforts of federal, state, and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector resulted in the critical preservation of low-lying open space that absorbs storm runoff and protects inland areas. The team created a pedestrian trail system that allows increased access to wetlands and provides an environmental classroom to promote awareness of the value of conserving, restoring, creating, and enhancing wetlands in Louisiana. Robert DeHann, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. DOT presented the team with the Coastal America Partnership Award.



*"I understand the importance of these fragile ecosystems to our local economy and ecology and applaud the work and accomplishments of these fine organizations and their contributions to this wonderful partnership."*

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
U.S. Congresswoman  
18th District of Florida

FKNMS Coral Protection and Restoration Program Partnership Award Ceremony, Key West, Florida February 2, 2008

*The Duwamish Alive! Coalition, Seattle, Washington*



**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2007**

The coalition is composed of 18 non-governmental organizations as well as federal, state, and local agencies. These groups worked with 835 volunteers to restore seven sites along the Duwamish River Watershed. In one four-hour period on Earth Day 2006, volunteers removed 1.4 acres of invasive species, placed 2,500 square feet of sheet mulch, planted 718 plants, and removed 325 pounds of garbage.



*Salmon in the City Stewardship Initiative, Anchorage, Alaska*



**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2007**

The Mayor of Anchorage, Mark Begich, received the Partnership Award on behalf of the Initiative from Timothy R.E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans, U.S. DOC. The initiative aims to build public support to rejuvenate and sustain local salmon populations while enhancing fishing and recreational experiences of residents and visitors. Several projects are under way to remove barriers to fish passage, maintain and restore riparian habitats, and increase public involvement in salmon and watershed stewardship in Anchorage. In addition, Salmon in the City is formalizing city policies to improve long-term watershed health.



*Yokum Brook Restoration, Becket, Massachusetts*



**PARTNERSHIP AWARD, 2007**

This project team removed the Silk Mill and Ballou dams and improved access to the river for educational and recreational purposes. The effort benefits a range of aquatic organisms (including the Atlantic salmon and eastern brook trout), improves water quality, and restores natural river processes to the formerly degraded brook.



*Elders Point Jamaica Bay Salt Marsh Islands Restoration Project, New York, New York*



**SPIRIT AWARD, 2007**

This team implemented a project encompassing 29 acres of mitigation work at Elders Point East, and 22 acres at Elders Point West. Restoration of the area around the Jamaica Bay Marsh Islands expanded on New York State impact mitigation efforts while also providing a greater environmental benefit than would have been possible under regulations alone.



*Los Machos Mangrove Restoration Project, Puerto Rico*

SPIRIT AWARD, 2007

This project team restored historic hydrologic flow to 1,300 acres of mangroves in the Los Machos basin forest. This project is the single-most significant mangrove restoration project conducted in Puerto Rico and will restore the hydrologic flow of the mangroves' main channel from 5 percent of its original flow back to 95 percent of the natural flow rate present in 1938 (prior to World War II, when the military base was constructed).



*Woodbridge Creek & Joseph Medwick Marsh Project Team, Woodbridge, New Jersey*

SPIRIT AWARD, 2007

This project resulted in the creation of 64 acres of high-quality salt marsh complex, including enhancements to the designated preservation zones at the Woodbridge Creek location. The project also re-established access to essential marsh habitat areas for living marine resources and enhanced 16 acres of productive salt marsh at the Joseph Medwick wetland location. This project restored, protected, and enhanced a total of 80 acres of high-quality estuarine habitat.



*America's WETLAND: Campaign to Save Coastal Louisiana, Louisiana*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD, 2007

This public education campaign was launched in 2002 to raise national awareness of the impact of Louisiana's wetland loss and to gain support for conservation efforts. The campaign is recognized for being the largest and most successful public education effort in the State's history. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. FWS (left) presented the award.



*National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, Dubuque, Iowa*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD, 2007

The River Museum education network covers the Mississippi River drainage area and engages key partners from the river community to develop a unified public awareness campaign. The network outreach initiatives address watershed issues that exemplify a holistic aquatic ecosystem approach and raises awareness of the value of the Mississippi River, its communities, tributaries, bluff lands, and the coastal delta.



*John G. Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Illinois*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD, 2007

The Shedd Aquarium has an overarching campaign that reaches residents of Chicago and the entire Great Lakes basin (eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces) with strategic messages on Great Lakes awareness, stewardship, and action. The Aquarium has taken a leadership role in advancing the goals of Great Lakes-focused programs by involving senior staff members in the work of various committees, projects, and programs.



*“Alaskans care deeply about salmon and aquatic resources and depend on them for food, jobs, and recreation. The City is honored to receive this Coastal America Partnership Award. We recognize that our success is the result of close working relationships with NOAA, Fish & Game, and our other partners.”*

Mark Begich  
Mayor of Anchorage,  
Alaska

Salmon in the City  
Stewardship Initiative  
Partnership Award Press  
Release  
February 11, 2008

# APPENDIX II:

## REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM POINTS OF CONTACT

### NORTHEAST

**Bill Hubbard**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District (Concord, MA)  
*william.a.hubbard@usace.army.mil*

### MID-ATLANTIC

**Mario DelVicario**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 2 (New York, NY)  
*delvicario.mario@epa.gov*

**Jennifer Greiner**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Annapolis, MD  
*greiner.jennifer@epa.gov*

**Tai-Ming Chang**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 3 (Philadelphia, PA)  
*chang.tai-ming@epa.gov*

### SOUTHEAST

**James D. Giattina**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4 (Atlanta, GA)  
*giattina.jim@epa.gov*

**David Parker**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4 (Atlanta, GA)  
*parker.david@epa.gov*

### GULF OF MEXICO

**Bryon Griffith**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Gulf of Mexico Program  
Stennis Space Center, MS  
*griffith.bryon@epa.gov*

**John Bowie**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Gulf of Mexico Program  
Stennis Space Center, MS  
*bowie.john@epa.gov*

### SOUTHWEST

**Patrick Rutten**

NOAA Restoration Center  
San Francisco, CA  
*patrick.rutten@noaa.gov*

### NORTHWEST

**Richard Parkin**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10 (Seattle, WA)  
*parkin.richard@epa.gov*

**Mark A. Brown**

Bureau of Land Management  
Portland, OR  
*mark\_brown@or.blm.gov*

### ALASKA

**Jon Kurland**

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service  
Juneau, AK  
*jon.kurland@noaa.gov*

**Doug Mutter**

DOI Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance  
Anchorage, AK  
*douglas\_mutter@ios.doi.gov*

### PACIFIC ISLANDS

**Kelvin Char**

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries  
Honolulu, HI  
*kelvin.char@noaa.gov*

### UPPER MISSISSIPPI GREAT LAKES FOCUS AREA

**John Perrecone**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5 (Chicago, IL)  
*perrecone.john@epa.gov*

## APPENDIX III:

# COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

*“This is an exciting and unique opportunity for all of the members of the Coastal America partnership to work together to help deliver critical ocean literacy messages to the citizens of the United States. We look forward to continuing to work closely with our CWRP partners and federal agencies on this vital Coastal America initiative.”*

Letter from the Co-Chairs of the CELC Network regarding the CELC Ocean Literacy Initiative

December 7, 2007

### **Acuario de Veracruz**

Blvd. Ávila Camacho S/N  
Playón de Hornos  
Col. Flores Magón  
Veracruz, Ver. C.P. Mexico 91700  
+52.229.931.1020 Ext 111  
[www.acuariodeveracruz.com](http://www.acuariodeveracruz.com)

### **Alaska SeaLife Center**

P.O. Box 1329  
Seward, AK 99664  
907.224.6300  
[www.alaskasealife.org](http://www.alaskasealife.org)

### **Aquarium of the Pacific**

320 Golden Shore Drive, Suite 150  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
562.590.3100  
[www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org)

### **Audubon Aquarium of the Americas**

1 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
504.581.4629  
[www.auduboninstitute.org](http://www.auduboninstitute.org)

### **Dauphin Island Sea Lab**

101 Bienville Boulevard  
Dauphin Island, AL 36528  
334.861.2141  
[www.disl.org](http://www.disl.org)

### **The Florida Aquarium**

701 Channelside Drive  
Tampa, FL 33602  
813.273.4000  
[www.flaquarium.org](http://www.flaquarium.org)

### **Georgia Aquarium**

225 Baker Street  
Atlanta, GA 30313  
404.581.4000  
[www.georgiaaquarium.org](http://www.georgiaaquarium.org)

### **Hatfield Marine Science Center- Oregon Coast Aquarium**

2030 South Marine Shore Drive  
Newport, OR 97365-5296  
541.867.0100  
[www.hmsc.oregonstate.edu/education](http://www.hmsc.oregonstate.edu/education)

### **IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum**

300 Gulf Stream Way  
Dania Beach, FL 33004  
954.927.6268  
[www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org)

### **J.L. Scott Marine Education Center- Gulf Coast Research Laboratory of The University of Southern Mississippi**

703 East Beach Drive  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564  
228.818.8890  
[www.usm.edu/marineeducation](http://www.usm.edu/marineeducation)

### **Monterey Bay Aquarium**

866 Cannery Row  
Monterey, CA 93940-1085  
831.648.4800  
[www.montereybayaquarium.org](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org)

### **Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration**

55 Coogan Boulevard  
Mystic, CT 06355-1997  
860.572.5955  
[www.mysticaquarium.org](http://www.mysticaquarium.org)

### **National Aquarium in Baltimore**

Pier 3, 501 East Pratt Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-3194  
410.576.3800  
[www.aqua.org](http://www.aqua.org)

**National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium**

Third Street Ice Harbor  
Dubuque, IA 52004-0266  
563.557.9545  
[www.mississippirivermuseum.com](http://www.mississippirivermuseum.com)

**New England Aquarium**

Central Wharf  
Boston, MA 02110-3399  
617.973.5200  
[www.neaq.org](http://www.neaq.org)

**New York Aquarium**

Surf Avenue & West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11224  
718.265.3400  
[www.wcs.org](http://www.wcs.org)

**North Carolina Aquariums**

At Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores, and Fort Fisher  
417 North Blount Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
1.800.832-3474  
[www.ncaquariums.org](http://www.ncaquariums.org)

**The Seattle Aquarium**

1482 Alaskan Way  
Seattle, WA 98101-2059  
206.386.4300  
[www.seattleaquarium.org](http://www.seattleaquarium.org)

**John G. Shedd Aquarium**

1200 South Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60605  
312.939.2438  
[www.shedd.org](http://www.shedd.org)

**South Carolina Aquarium**

100 Aquarium Wharf  
Charleston, SC 29413-9001  
843.720.1990  
[www.scaquarium.org](http://www.scaquarium.org)

**Texas State Aquarium**

2710 North Shoreline  
Corpus Christi, TX 78402  
361.881.1200  
[www.texasstateaquarium.org](http://www.texasstateaquarium.org)

**Waikiki Aquarium**

University of Hawaii  
2777 Kalakaua Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
808.923.9741  
[www.waquarium.org](http://www.waquarium.org)

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## HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP?

Coastal America is about bringing together people from a variety of organizations—federal agencies, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and industry. Because coastal challenges are often broad in scope, the Coastal America Partnership includes people with backgrounds as varied as their affiliations—scientists, policy makers, economists, legal experts, educators, and others.

The Coastal America Partners and the partnership process can help you achieve your environmental goals. The Partnership gives you the tools and resources to accomplish environmental protection, conservation, restoration, and education projects.

To become involved, visit [www.coastalamerica.gov](http://www.coastalamerica.gov) or contact either the Coastal America National Coordinating Office at (202) 401-9928 or one of the regional federal partners near you (see Appendix II).

***Become involved...contact us!***

# APPENDIX IV: OCEAN ART CONTEST WINNING ART WORK



**ANDREW AVILA**  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
3rd Place, K–2nd Grade



**CINDY LEE**  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
3rd Place, 6–8th Grade



**SOPHIA GUEIROS COSTA**  
Waikiki Aquarium  
3rd Place, University



**CHELSEA FINICAL**  
North Carolina Aquarium  
3rd Place, 9–12th Grade



**KAREN CHEN**  
National Aquarium in Washington, DC  
3rd Place, 6–8th Grade



**NICOLE LEE**  
Waikiki Aquarium  
3rd Place, 9–12th Grade



**JAN FAHLBUSCH**  
North Carolina Aquarium  
2nd Place, 6–8th Grade



**MALINALLI RAMIREZ MARTINEZ**  
Acuario de Veracruz  
1st Place, 3–5th Grade



**ZOE MALISZEWSKYJ**  
National Aquarium in Washington, DC  
3rd Place, 3–5th Grade



**YUKGEE LI**  
New York Aquarium  
3rd Place, University

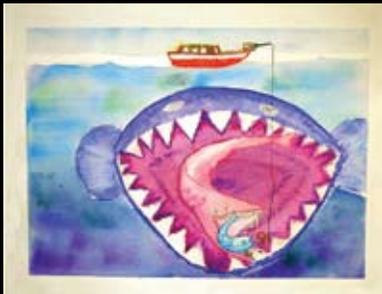


**CAROLINE PARK**  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
1st Place, 9–12th Grade

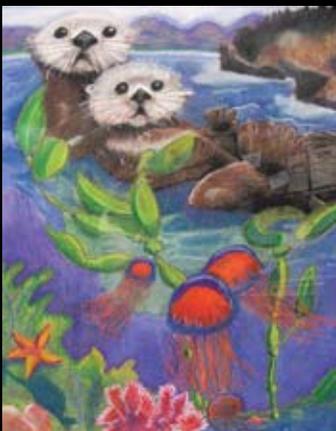
# OCEAN ART CONTEST WINNING ART WORK



**ANSLEY NURKIN**  
North Carolina Aquarium  
2nd Place, K-2nd Grade



**HAEDYN STANDRIDGE**  
Texas State Aquarium  
3rd Place, 3-5th Grade



**PARIS SHEWFELT**  
Monterey Bay Aquarium  
1st Place, K-2nd Grade



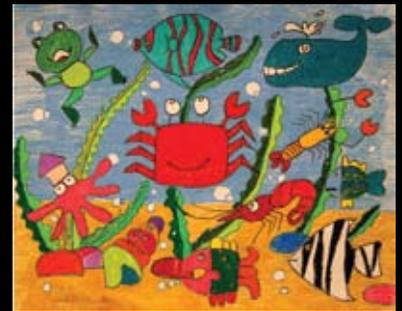
**EMELINE PRINCE**  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
1st Place, University



**OWEN FREEMAN**  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
3rd Place, University



**PAULA ALBANEZE**  
Waikiki Aquarium  
2nd Place, 9-12th Grade



**JESSICA XU**  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
3rd Place, K-2nd Grade



**ALLISON CHEUNG**  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
1st Place, 6-8th Grade



**ANISHA SHAH**  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
2nd Place, 3-5th Grade





For More Information, Contact:

**COASTAL AMERICA**

300 7th Street, SW • Suite 680 • Washington, DC 20024

202.401.9928

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