

# **Coastal America**

## **Alaska Regional Implementation Team**

### **Strategic Plan 2007-2010**

#### **Introduction**

The strategy of the Alaska Regional Implementation Team (AKRIT) is to offer a means by which agencies can come together as partners under the themes of habitat restoration and protection, assisting species at risk, pollution prevention, environmentally sound resource management and sustainable development, and public education. The Coastal America process allows partners to accomplish tasks within the partnership themes that no single organization could accomplish alone, while concurrently recognizing mission responsibilities of participating agencies.

The AKRIT defines the coastal area to include 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 for a rare plant species, watershed and riparian restoration and rehabilitation, habitat protection and enhancement, technology transfer, and training and education. New projects will focus on these topics as well as pollution prevention and data collection.

#### **Mission**

Build partnerships to complete projects that protect, preserve, and restore Alaska's coastal environment, including wetlands and anadromous streams.

#### **Core Values**

- Collaboration
- Sharing
- Stewardship

#### **Goals and Objectives**

- A. Identify agency activities and priorities affecting Alaska's coastal areas to enhance early identification of collaborative opportunities.
- B. Define Alaska coastal issues and geographic areas where joint projects could be undertaken.
- C. Help identify and address policy, regulatory, and/or financial barriers to Alaska coastal restoration and protection.

- D. Endorse Federally-supported projects that address the AKRIT mission in order to establish partnerships to successfully complete projects. Target: endorse twelve partnership projects in the next two years.
- E. Help identify opportunities to implement the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) program at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Target: implement one new project per year.
- F. Identify and endorse projects in Alaska for possible collaboration with the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). Target: support for three new projects per year.
- G. Encourage military involvement in Alaskan projects through Innovative Readiness Training (IRT), where appropriate. Target: implement one multi-year project in the next two years.

## **Assumptions**

Projects will be funded through normal organizational budgeting mechanisms. Coastal America does not offer grants.

## **Annual Tasks**

- A. Convene up to 4 meetings of the AKRIT to discuss issues, plan activities, and review progress.
- B. Coordinate with CWRP, CELC, and IRT Alaska leads, inviting them to all AKRIT meetings.
- C. AKRIT members will present information on possible Coastal America projects for Alaska and will coordinate collaborative efforts within their agency's jurisdiction.
- D. Convene an annual meeting with AKRIT Principals to address AKRIT strategic and annual work plans, and to provide a forum for CWRP, CELC, and IRT presentations and Coastal America awards ceremonies.
- E. AKRIT Co-chairs will coordinate with, and provide reports to, Coastal America headquarters and the National Implementation Team, and participate in their monthly meetings, if possible.
- F. AKRIT Co-chairs will, if possible, attend the annual national Coastal America conference, representing the AKRIT.

## **Partners**

In addition to the Federal agencies which are signatory to the Coastal America partnership, in carrying out its mission, the AKRIT will endeavor to include State of Alaska and local government agencies; and when it is appropriate, collaborate with CWRP private sector members and involve Alaskan educational/research institutions and other non-governmental organizations.