

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership

Supporting the Environmental Protection Agency



The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) is an innovative private-public initiative aimed at preserving, restoring, enhancing and protecting aquatic habitats throughout the United States. Bringing together corporations, federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations and academia, the CWRP allows members to contribute in a fundamental way to crucial projects involving America's coastal and inland aquatic resources and support related education programs. More than 300 corporate partners have contributed time and money to facilitate environmental projects. Since its inception in 2000, CWRP has aided in the restoration of more than 20,000 acres of wetlands and 7,000 stream miles through the monetary donations and in-kind services of its corporate partners.

CWRP has undertaken numerous projects that support the mission of the Environmental Protection Agency to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment upon which life depends. As exemplified by the recent examples below, the CWRP has partnered with EPA headquarters and regional offices to support EPA's mission through environmental restoration projects to protect sensitive aquatic ecosystems, reclamation of wetlands, and education of students and the public about the benefits of protecting our nation's coastal resources.

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration **Peconic Fishway Project/Region II**

In 1993, the Peconic Estuary, located on Long Island about 80 miles from New York City, became the 20th estuary in the nation to be designated an "Estuary of National Significance" by EPA. Part of EPA's National Estuary Program, the Peconic Estuary Program is an innovative partnership of local, state, and federal governments, citizen and environmental groups, businesses and industries, and academic institutions.

For almost a decade, the Peconic Estuary Program had been working to install a rock ramp/rock riffle at the Grangebelle Park South Spillway on the Peconic River, to allow passing of Alewife and American eels, once abundant native species. When the project was in jeopardy due to a lack of funding to complete critical engineering work and obtain required certifications, New York CWRP partners donated needed funding to rescue the important project. In the absence of the CWRP's matching funds, the project would not have been able to proceed – and over \$1,000,000 in federal (and state) grant money would have expired, without the project ever being able to move forward.



Peconic Fishway Project

CWRP

Partners: NY CWRP: Spectra Energy, National Grid; The Town of Riverhead, NY; The Peconic River Fish Restoration Commission, USFWS, NOAA, EPA, The Peconic Estuary Program, The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Suffolk County.

Fort Covington Dam Removal Project /Region II

The Fort Covington Dam, located in Franklin County, NY five miles upstream of the Salmon River's confluence with the St. Lawrence River, was the first man-made barrier on the Salmon River. The dam blocked the migration of all androgynous fish species and adversely affected local water quality.

At the request of EPA and other federal agencies, New England CWRP partners provided financial and logistical support to assist in removal of the dam. Removal of the obsolete and deteriorated dam restored riverine connectivity and benefit fisheries and water quality from the Adirondack Mountains to the St. Lawrence River, and subsequently the Atlantic Ocean.



Removal of the Fort Covington Dam

CWRP

Removal of the dam reestablished access to more than 35 miles of the Salmon River and tributaries.

Partners: NY CWRP, USEPA – Great Lakes National Program Office, American Rivers, Cooper Environmental, FishAmerica Foundation, Great Lakes Protection Fund, Milone and MacBroom, Inc., National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, New York Rivers United, NOAA Restoration Center, NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation, NYS Dept of Transportation, NYS Department of State – Division of Coastal Resources, NY State Senator Elizabeth Little (via a member item), New York Power Authority, Ohio State University, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, SUNY– Environmental Studies and Forestry, Tisdell Associates, Town of Fort Covington, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wetlands Restoration

Drakes Island Salt Marsh Restoration / Region I

Drakes Island encompasses a particularly sensitive salt marsh located in the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in the State of Maine. The salt marsh provides a critical local habitat for aquatic species and an important nesting habitat for birds, and greatly enhances local water quality. The salt marsh was substantially degraded due to the impacts of climate change and upstream development.

At the request of the Reserve, New England CWRP partners provided critically needed funding and expertise for restoration of the Drakes Island salt marsh. The project, undertaken by EPA, NOAA and other partners, restored approximately 77 critical acres of salt marsh enhancing tidal inundation and circulation throughout the entire Reserve. This project included the installation of an innovative self-regulating tide gate, piloting new technology designed to allow for both flood protection to low-lying adjacent properties as well as facilitating salt marsh restoration. This successful project has led to many more restoration projects using this technology throughout New England.



Drake Island

NOAA

Partners: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wells National Estuarine Reserve, Conservation Law Foundation, Town of Wells, ME Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Gulf Of Maine Council Habitat Restoration Partnership and Committee.

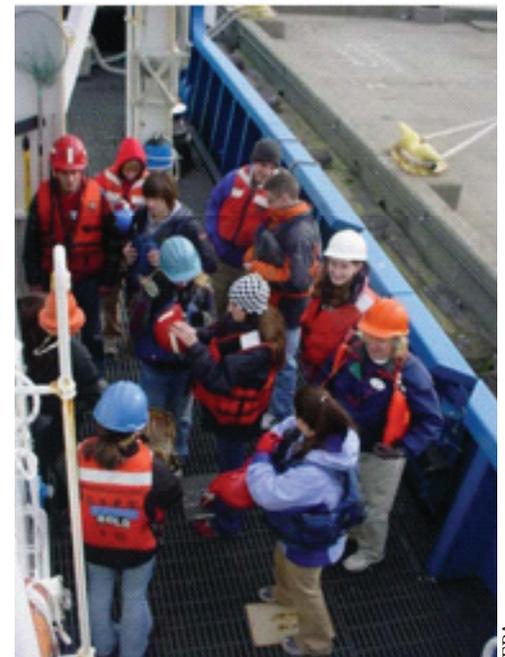
Public Outreach & Education

Support of EPA Educational Programs

The CWRP, in cooperation with EPA's regional offices, provides substantial support to EPA's educational and outreach efforts. CWRP partners have provided funding and in-kind services annually to support the participation of school children in EPA educational and outreach programs provided by the OSV Bold and OSV Anderson ocean research vessels. CWRP partners have helped sponsor over 300 students to participate in educational programs aboard the EPA research vessels at locations through the nation.

Outreach to Communities

CWRP partners provided financial and logistical support for a major outreach project to heighten awareness of the importance of the oceans and our coastal environment for a healthy planet. The Oceans Art Contest, sponsored by EPA, the Smithsonian Institute and other federal agencies, was a highly successful program that reached school children throughout the nation.



Students aboard the OSV Bold, Mystic, CT

EPA



Coastal America is a partnership among federal, state, and local governments and private alliances to address environmental problems along our nation's coasts. The federal partners are: Executive Office of the President, Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation.