



# COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

Winter – Summer Issue

2010

## COASTAL AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING FOCUSES ON NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY

The 2010 Coastal America Annual Meeting, held June 23-25 in Washington D.C., focused on ways the Coastal America Partnership can use its unique resources and capabilities to advance the Administration’s National Ocean Policy and federal/state partnerships for regional action. The meeting also discussed opportunities to strengthen public-private partnerships through the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) and engage the public through the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Network. A highlight of the meeting was remarks at the Partnership Celebration by Senator Kerry on the need for collaborative action by public and private organizations to preserve and restore our nation’s oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. (See related articles on pages 2-4)



Senator John Kerry with CIA Director Leon Panetta, Dr. Larry Robinson, Assistant Secretary DOC and Terrence Salt, Assistant Secretary Army.

## President Obama Establishes National Ocean Policy

On July 19, 2010, President Obama signed an Executive Order establishing a National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes. The Executive Order strengthens ocean governance and coordination, establishes guiding principles for ocean management, and adopts a flexible framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning to address conservation, economic activity, user conflict, and sustainable use of the ocean, our coasts and the Great Lakes. The National Ocean Policy identifies nine priority objectives, based on recommendations developed by the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. Specific implementation of the

*“The ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes provide jobs, food, energy resources, ecological services, recreation and tourism opportunities, and play critical roles in our Nation’s transportation, economy, and trade, as well as the global mobility of our Armed Forces and the maintenance of international peace and security.”*

President Barack Obama  
#13547 Ocean Stewardship  
Executive Order

objectives will be determined through the development of strategic action plans by individual agencies. A copy of the National Ocean Policy can be obtained at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).

### In This Issue:

Partnership Supports Ocean Policy.....	2
Director’s Note.....	2
Coastal Stewardship Award.....	2
Annual Mtg/Leadership Awards .....	3
Corporate Partnership.....	4
Regional Team Updates .....	7
Learning Centers .....	11
Partnership Award Ceremonies.....	16
Announcements.....	18

## Coastal America Partnership Supports National Ocean Policy

### Letter from the Director

The President's Executive Order establishing a National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes has energized the ocean community and affirmed the importance of collaborative partnerships. The Coastal America Partnership is mobilizing its unique capabilities and public/private network to support the new National Ocean Policy.

Through our Regional Interagency Teams, the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, and the Learning Center Network, the Partnership has fostered collaboration among federal agencies, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations and corporate America since 1991. Throughout its history, Coastal America has created collaborative partnerships to improve water quality and restore and protect fragile coastal ecosystems. From military training exercises that remove dams to restore fish passage and CWRP

private sector contributions of time and materials for habitat restoration, to mobilizing CELC citizen volunteers to plant salt marsh grass and educate the public, the Partnership has made a real difference.

As President Obama noted in his January 21, 2009 memorandum; "Executive departments and agencies should use innovative tools, methods and systems to cooperate among themselves, across all levels of Government and with nonprofit organizations, businesses and individuals in the private sector." As implementation of the National Ocean Policy moves forward, Coastal America stands ready to provide its innovative tools and systems to facilitate collaborative efforts critical to the policy's success. The Partnership looks forward to growing and evolving under the leadership of the National Ocean Council.

*Virginia Tippie, Director*

### CWRP Supports National CMSP Goals

#### CWRP Initiatives

During its 2010 annual meeting, the National Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) Board launched an initiative to support the President's Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) effort. The CWRP committed to provide an industry standard underwater video camera system to each of the Regional Ocean Councils. With the donation of these critical tools the Regional Ocean Councils will have the capability to better capture and understand their coastal and marine habitats in support of CMSP efforts. By adding pictures and video to the spatial planning output, public knowledge and legislative decisions will be greatly enhanced.



## Senator Kerry Receives Coastal Stewardship Award

U.S. Senator John F. Kerry (D- MA) was presented the John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award at a ceremony in the historic Senate Caucus Room on the evening of June 24<sup>th</sup>. Senator Kerry was recognized with the prestigious award for his life-long commitment to protecting the ocean and coastal resources of this country, his many legislative accomplishments, and for his leadership in establishment of the Coastal America Learning Center Network and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). The John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award was created in 1999 to "recognize a person who, whether in government, the private sector, or academia,

has consistently displayed outstanding leadership of national significance related to restoring and protecting our nation's coastal resources."



*Dr. Robinson, DOC presents Chafee Award to Senator Kerry with Director Panetta, CIA.*

Leon Panetta, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and former recipient of the Chafee Award for his efforts as Chair of the Pew Ocean Commission, provided congratulatory remarks, as did U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). Pat Hester, Vice-President, Spectra Energy Corporation & CWRP National Committee Chair, and Dr. Jerry Schubel, President, Aquarium of the Pacific & Chair of the Learning Center Network recognized Senator Kerry for his leadership and support of the Coastal America Partnership. Dr. Larry Robinson, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce, presented the award on behalf of the Partnership.

## Coastal America Partnership Meeting



*Dr. Jerry Schubel, Co-Chair of the CELC Network, showcases CA Art Contest Poster, a gift to Senator Kerry.*

The 2010 Coastal America Annual Meeting was held at the Hall of States on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC from June 22-25, 2010. Sessions explored ways that the Partnership can advance the Administrations new Ocean Policy and support the Regional Ocean Councils. Speakers from federal agencies, including EPA, NOAA and DOI, provided information on new coastal initiatives and climate change programs. Support for evolving regional governance structures was also explored through discussions with state representatives and NGOs, including the Coastal States Organization and the Meridian Institute. We discussed how



*Bryon Griffith, EPA, and Terry Holman, DOI, converse at Coastal America National Meeting.*

the Learning Center Network could best encourage public engagement in ocean policy initiatives by bolstering the Learning Centers' Ocean Kiosks and overall networking capabilities.

### Leadership Awards

At the Annual Award Dinner on June 23rd, Virginia Tippie, Director of Coastal America, and SIMOR Co-Chairs, Terry Holman, DOI and Paul Cough, EPA, presented the Partnership's Leadership Award to four outstanding Coastal America leaders.

Douglas Mutter, Chair and DOI representative on the Alaska Regional Implementation Team, was presented the National Leadership Award in recognition of his guidance in developing a regional partnership process to enhance federal outreach to the Learning Center Network. This collaborative process is a valuable model for all of the regional teams throughout the country.

Bryon Griffith, Chair and EPA representative on the Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team, received the Regional Leadership Award for

developing a coordinated and effective outreach mechanism for the Gulf of Mexico region. The value of the coordinated Gulf-wide CELC network was evident at the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force listening session on October 19 at the Aquarium of the Americas, our CELC in New Orleans. This coordinated outreach mechanism was also valuable during the Gulf oil spill.

Awards were also presented for national leadership in forging partnership efforts within the CWRP and the CELC network.

Tom Simpson, Vice-President, CH2MHill was recognized for his leadership in developing a collaborative alliance between corporate partners, federal agencies and the Georgia Aquarium CELC to establish an Earth Day Initiative with a poster and web site that was then shared with all the regional implementation teams and the Learning Center Network.



*Doug Mutter, DOI receives National Leadership Award from Director Tippie and Terry Holman, DOI.*

Ian Dutton, President, Alaska Sea Life Center was recognized for his leadership in developing several CELC network initiatives including a Citizen Science effort with the North American Marine Protected Areas Network and an Arctic initiative in response to the National Ocean Policy priorities.

A special thanks to these outstanding individuals who continue to demonstrate the value of collaborative partnerships.

## Corporate Partnership Updates



*CWRP National Management Committee celebrates 10th Anniversary.*

### CWRP 10th Anniversary

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) celebrated its 10th Anniversary in 2010! Over 100 guests enjoyed a reception on Capitol Hill on June 24th to celebrate the 10th anniversary of CWRP. The CWRP honored Senator Kerry (D-MA) for his support, including the establishment of the national CWRP ten years ago. Senior administration officials and CWRP leaders provided remarks to a crowd of public and private partners, describing CWRP's contribution to the restoration and protection of our nation's coasts and wetland resources.

With totals of over \$112 million in leveraged dollars, and more than 240 projects nationwide, the CWRP has established itself as a model for restoring and protecting coastal and aquatic habitats. From its first project in Sagamore Marsh, Massachusetts to projects all across the nation, the CWRP is evidence of the power and productivity of public and private partners when they come together to share ideas and resources.

One of the unique aspects of the CWRP model is how they work in concert with Coastal America's federal partners through the Regional Implementation Teams to build positive working relationships between private and public organizations. The value of establishing constructive relationships among these often disparate

sectors cannot be overstated. First, partnering allows us to pull together diverse resources, skills, and expertise to efficiently accomplish collective goals. Additionally, private/public collaboration transcends the traditional "regulator/regulated" relationships and fosters a better appreciation of one another's perspective.

CWRP is also very proud of its association with the Learning Center (CELC) network of 23 premier aquaria, marine science centers, and laboratories throughout the United States. Over the past 10 years CWRP partners have provided funding and in-kind services to the CELC network to advance national educational programs, conduct regional outreach initiatives and collaborate on habitat restoration efforts.

Additional information on the success of CWRP's unique approach can be found at [www.cwrp.org](http://www.cwrp.org).



*Senator Kerry with CWRP Chair Pat Hester at Anniversary Celebration.*

### CWRP Members Meet with Senior Administration Officials

In conjunction with the Coastal America Partnership meeting, Coastal America's National Implementation Team members, representing their respective federal agencies, facilitated meetings between senior administration officials and senior CWRP representatives. The purpose of these agency specific group discussions was to encourage and inspire new productive public-private partnership efforts in support of agency missions and the new National Ocean Policy, foster positive relationships and increase transparency between the public and private sectors. On June 24th and 25th, meetings were held with the Army Corps of Engineers, US EPA, and the Departments of Commerce, Interior, Agriculture, Energy, and Transportation.



*Deputy Assistant Secretary Eileen Sobeck at CWRP Anniversary Celebration.*

*"I think that the partnership between CWRP and federal and state governments cannot be characterized as [anything] other than a win-win. The agencies clearly benefit from financial and in-kind support for projects that we receive from these corporate partners. Companies get the opportunity to give back to the community and get the recognition that they rightly deserve."*

Eileen Sobeck, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife & Parks, DOI

At the conclusion of his meeting with corporate representatives, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Terrence C. “Rock” Salt remarked “I really enjoyed the meeting I had today with the Corporate Partnership group. To have a representative of corporate America come in [to my office] to talk to me about how we can work together on these issues was very special.” Eileen Sobeck, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks at DOI remarked to the CWRP members at the 10th Anniversary Celebration “Thank you very much for coming and visiting with us over at Interior and for giving us your thoughts and inspiration for where our path should lead in the future. We really look forward to the next decade and to our work together.”

Similarly, representatives from the CWRP found the experience to be encouraging and enlightening. CWRP Vice-Chair, George Olson of Proctor and Gamble, remarked “It was a great series of meetings, we were able to exchange ideas and now we have a better idea of what the priorities are for these different agencies and how we can best support them.”

Follow-up actions and future meetings are being arranged to ensure that this collaboration and understanding continues to be fostered.

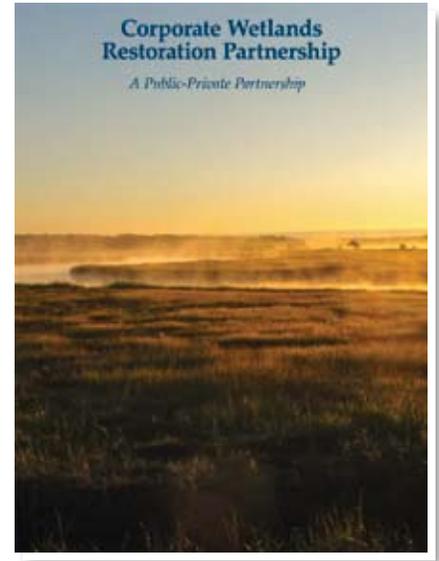
## CWRP National Overview

The CWRP National Management Committee met on June 23rd in conjunction with the Coastal America National Partnership Meeting in Washington, DC. The CWRP proudly reported on their many accomplishments over the past 10 years.

### *CWRP Accomplishments:*

- More than 240 Coastal America endorsed projects supported
- Over \$112 Million in overall project funding leveraged
- Over 44,000 wetland acres & nearly 1,000 river/stream miles restored or protected
- More than 11,000 hours of volunteer efforts facilitated
- Over 2,500 students & teachers educated

The Management Committee set several exciting goals for the future of CWRP, including doubling the cash and in-kind services provided for projects over the next decade. These exciting commitments generated a strong interest in expanding state chapters, resulting in new leads for possible CWRP chapters in six states. The CWRP committed to support the Administration’s Regional Ocean



Councils Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning efforts. (See article on page 8)

All sound corporate business plans include transition planning and sustaining the base of support while expanding into new areas simultaneously. The CWRP has seen leadership changes in state chairs for AK, TX, DE, NY, CA and VA. These chapters will be a focus over the next year. The national committee itself will rotate two state leads as non-voting members and work with them to make reporting of CWRP results more efficient.

The Management Committee also committed to exploration of a number of projects to expand CWRP outreach and strengthen ties to other Coastal America partners. Letters of recognition will be sent to federal partners to highlight the outstanding dedication of agency staff and the benefits of corporate participation. A new messaging campaign will be introduced to provide state and local weather broadcast with coastal & environmental relevant news feeds and articles. In addition, production of high quality video on ocean and wetlands topics will be explored for use in Public Service Broadcasts and to support the Smithsonian Ocean Today Kiosks.



*CWRP National Management Committee members meet in Washington, DC.*

## CWRP State Chapters

### New Hampshire

The New Hampshire CWRP has had an active year with three new projects. The Homestead Woolen Mills Dam project, on the Ashuelot River, in West Swanzey, removed the dam and installed in-stream structures to restore aquatic habitats. Removal of the dam and channel stabilization will restore anadromous fish access to approximately 24 miles of the river.

The Living Shoreline Project, at Wagon Hill Farm on the Oyster River, in Durham, assessed the viability of restoring oyster beds in the Great Bay Estuary. Oyster reefs provide significant benefits for improved water quality and shoreline protection. This project includes shoreline erosion improvements and channel stabilization with oyster reef shell-banks. As part of the project, the Nature Conservancy, with the University of New Hampshire, and the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, plans to construct a shell reef in the Oyster River. The reef will be constructed on tidal river bottom adjacent to Wagon Hill Park in Durham, as a narrow band of low profile reef using surf clam, ocean quahog, and oyster shell from recycled sources.

In the invasive species eradication project at Odiorne State Park in Rye, nine different project partners including the NH CWRP, implemented multiple strategies to address the invasive plant problem including: mapping 336 acres for invasives, developing invasive plant control plans for 30 separate parcels in the Park, organizing community supported invasive plant control and hiring professional contractors to control invasives on 7 acres.

### New Jersey

The New Jersey CWRP continues to enjoy a high level of enthusiasm and participation from its membership. At the June Partnership meeting, hosted

by The USFWS at the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge Center, three projects were approved for financial support totaling over \$40,000. The projects include; the restoration of a critical scrub shrub community on the Delaware Bay at the Salem Wildlife Management Area, a wetlands and riparian restoration project at the NJ Audubon Society's Wattles Stewardship Center, and a research proposal to provide passage for American eel elvers over three dam spillways in Southern New Jersey.

In addition, NJ CWRP is developing a web site with a target for completion by the end of the year. The new website will increase visibility of the Partnership, help with membership development and simplify the process for submitting applications for project support.

### Georgia

The Georgia CWRP has been active this year completing current projects and planning for future collaborations. The partnership has been actively working with the Southeast Regional Implementation Team (SERIT) following completion of the Johnson Ferry stream restoration project with the National Park Service. A number of new projects are being explored, including potential oyster restoration programs along the Georgia coast, as well as restoration opportunities along one of Georgia's coastal rivers.

The Partnership has initiated an exciting new direction this year by working closely with the Georgia Aquarium CELC to find projects that align well with their educational interests and mandates. One of

these projects is the "4 for 40" campaign. (see article on page 19) Georgia CWRP members have met several times at the Georgia Aquarium with SERIT partners and aquarium officials to explore opportunities for future collaboration.

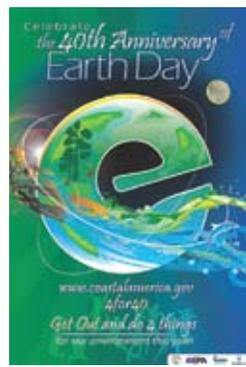
### Maine

The Maine CWRP has been active this year working with the NERIT to develop and implement restoration projects. One project of particular note is the removal of the West Winterport Dam. The West Winterport Dam is located on the North Branch of Marsh Stream in Waldo County, Maine, a tributary of the Penobscot River, Maine's largest watershed. ME CWRP provided key financial support, which allowed the much awaited project to be completed.



*West Winterport Dam before removal.*

The removal of the 85 feet long x 16 feet high dam, with no fish passage, was a major step in the restoration of the watershed for several native sea-run fish species, including Atlantic salmon, sea-run brook trout, alewives, blueback herring, sea lamprey, rainbow smelt, American shad, and catadromous American eel. Dam removal will restore a large segment of the river to its natural conditions. The character of the stream will return to its former pool and riffle





*Marsh Stream after dam removal.*

configuration containing boulder and gravel substrate. Sea-run fish species will have access to more than 20 miles of free-flowing habitat in the North Branch of Marsh Stream, plus approximately 60 miles of habitat in numerous tributaries above the existing impoundment.

With removal of the dam it is estimated that Marsh Stream could support a run of several thousand adult American shad, as well as a run of 10,000 blueback herring. Resident brook trout will benefit from greater habitat connectivity, while the sea-run form of brook trout will gain

access to historic habitat and more than 100 adult Atlantic salmon could return to the area. In addition, a state-listed threatened species of freshwater mussel, the brook floater, will also benefit from restored habitat and increased runs of host fish species.

**Connecticut**

2010 has been a year of transition for the Connecticut CWRP. Several long-time member companies have had to pull back their membership due to economic hardship. The ranks may have thinned, but the Partnership’s focus on restoration projects continues.

The chapter has bolstered efforts at reaching the members of the environmental community that need funding for projects. Besides disseminating information via an updated website, grant application packages have been mailed to government and not-for-profit organizations with a request to help the CT CWRP spread the word about

available project assistance. The CT Chapter has already been contacted by several groups with interesting projects and looks forward to reviewing potential grant applications.

Support continues for the Leetes Island Tidal Marsh project, which is taking place on family owned property that had been used to harvest salt grass. A CT CWRP member provided consulting services to design a culvert tide gate between the salt marsh and Long Island Sound. It is hoped that funding will be obtained to construct the project in the near future.

**Maryland**

The Maryland chapter has been active this year focusing on new efforts and completing current projects. A highlight of the year so far was the presentation of a Coastal America National Partnership Award to the Hail Cove Living Shoreline Project Team. *(See article on page 17)*

**Regional Implementation Team Updates**

**Northeast (NERIT)**



*Construction is underway at Broad Meadows Marsh*

The NERIT coordinated the identification of important ecological restoration projects throughout New England that align with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council Ecosystem Health Subcommittee goals. The team especially sought projects incorporating two or three of Coastal America’s tools (e.g., CWRP, IRT and Learning Centers). Some of the identified projects are being constructed with federal stimulus (American Recovery and Reinvestment

Act, ARRA) funds; others will go through the traditional federal agency funding processes. Ecologically significant projects like the Herring River Restoration, Broad Meadows Marsh and Stamford Mill River are just a few examples of projects under study, construction and completion. Our Corporate Partners in each coastal state have come through with continued funding cost shares for environmental education projects, dam removals, restoring anadromous fisheries passage and funding salt marsh education/restoration projects. The CWRP has been working diligently to find donors to assist the \$5M Broad Meadows Marsh restoration in Quincy, MA. The City of Quincy has \$200K shortfall that if unfunded will reduce restoration footprint and return USACE 1135 funding.

The New England state chapters of the CWRP are reorganizing where personnel

have changed jobs and are looking forward to the increasing economic prosperity which comes from corporate donations. There is continued support for the large projects such as Herring River and Penobscot River restoration. Additionally, an exciting opportunity for restoration on Cape Cod is presenting itself through the NRCS Cape Cod Water Resource Restoration Project. We look forward to working with the Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut chapters of the CWRP to match funding and in-kind services of our corporate partners to implement significant federal education and restoration efforts.

NERIT efforts were recognized in May when the Connecticut Tidal Restoration Team was presented with a Coastal America Partnership Award. This award was a tribute to the leadership in the field of tidal marsh restoration by

Ron Rozsa, who recently retired from CT Department of Environmental Protection. (See article on page 17)

### Mid-Atlantic (MARIT)

In 2010, MARIT team members continued their policy of support to State CWRP Chapters through participation of Team Chairs in NJ Chapter CWRP meetings. Meetings focused on administrative details for project development and funding. One significant accomplishment of these joint meetings was efforts of the NJ CWRP Marketing Committee to identify and proceed with resourcing a web site for the Chapter. Approved funding for that effort is proceeding with expected establishment of the second CWRP web site in the MARIT region in the near future.

The MARIT has also actively pursued efforts to promote regional recognition of partner efforts by submitting five project nominations for consideration in the 2010 Coastal America Award Program. Those projects are: Cape May Meadows, NJ Stone Harbor Wetlands, CWRP Rain Garden Initiative, Fairmont Dam Fish Ladder and the Peconic Fishway.

MARIT has also developed a list of large-scale projects for potential CWRP support. These projects included the USFWS Pond Creek Wetland Restoration Project, USACE Grass Dale Tidal Marsh Restoration, DE; USACE Mordecai Island Restoration Project, USFWS Mill Creek Wetland Restoration Project, NJ; USFWS Hughesville Dam Removal on the Musconetcon River, NJ; USACE Lower Assunpink Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project, NJ; USACE Seal Island Tidal Marsh Restoration Project in DE, and the USFWS Cox Hall Creek Wetland Restoration in New Jersey.

### Southeast (SERIT)

The SERIT continues to make progress promoting environmental initiatives throughout the Southeast Region. Since

## Lower St. Johns River Tributary Assessment Team Spirit Award

*On Monday, March 1, the Lower St. Johns River Tributary Assessment Team (TAT) was presented with a 2009 Spirit Award for their outstanding efforts to investigate sources of fecal coliform in the tributaries discharging into the Lower St Johns River.*

*The following partners were recognized for their efforts on the Lower St. Johns River Tributary Assessment Team: The City of Jacksonville, Environmental & Compliance Department, Environmental Quality Division; JEA; Florida Department of Transportation, District 2; Duval County Department*



**Greg Strong, Director NE District FDER, accepts award on behalf of TAT from Chris Thomas, US EPA Region 4.**

*of Health, Division of Environmental Health and Safety; PBS&J.*

January 2010, the SERIT core group has met three times at the Georgia Aquarium CELC. A full membership meeting has been scheduled for the fall following release of President Obama's Executive Order on Ocean Policy and the South Atlantic Alliance (SAA) Policy Document, expected to be released for review in August.

An unexpected development for the SERIT has been the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Many SERIT members have been detailed to deal with it. Hopefully, with the situation now under control, everyone will be able to return to their regular duties.

Tom Simpson (CH2MHill) was awarded the Coastal America Leadership



**Tom Simpson receives Leadership Award from Director Tippie.**

Award during the Coastal America National Meeting in Washington, DC for his work in developing the "4 for 40" Program. Tom worked closely with SERIT partners to develop the innovative year-long campaign. (See article page 3)

Recent accomplishments for the SERIT span a range of projects and activities. The Fish and Wildlife Service received \$9,000 for a robust redhorse sucker assessment and \$11,000 for a Georgia Sea Turtle assessment from the Georgia Aquarium.

### Gulf of Mexico (GMRIT)

During the Spring, the GMRIT partners were busy preparing for the annual meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA). GOMA is the regional ocean governance body in the Gulf of Mexico. The GOMA meeting had over 500 attendees, including the Governor of the State of Veracruz, Mexico along with Mexican scientists, educators, and government agency officials. Participants discussed a range of issues, including the US national ocean policy, coastal and marine spatial planning, and the Deep Water Horizon oil spill, future priorities were also debated.

In March, GMRIT representatives participated in the Sea Level Rise Conference in Corpus Christi, TX. Talks covered the wide range of scientific and technical issues, impacts on coastal communities, and legal, policy and management strategy aspects of sea level rise. GMRIT representatives facilitated a special Gulf Alliance Session, where brief overviews related to a wide range of sea level rise issues were presented.

During April, GMRIT representatives participated on numerous teams supporting the LA/MS RoadMap Task Force, an initiative directed by the White House Council on Environmental Quality, which outlines a process for speeding the design and construction of coastal restoration projects in Louisiana and Mississippi. By fall 2010 the task force will have a list of major coastal restoration projects aimed at areas with the most critical need and the biggest long-term benefits, in consultation with LA/MS officials and local stakeholders.

In May and June, GMRIT representatives co-hosted a program dubbed “Mississippi and Iowa Farmers Exchange” that was developed by the Gulf of Mexico Program and the Gulf of Mexico Governors’ Alliance, in coordination with the Delta Council. The program’s primary objective was to host farmer-to-farmer exchanges of innovative nutrient-reduction programs in Mississippi and Iowa. The format included bus tours across the states with stops along the way demonstrating unique, innovative, and successful nutrient reduction projects, including several wetland reserves. During the bus tour, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture announced that many of the large commodity groups in Iowa agreed to develop a cooperative nutrient reduction plan which is a major step forward in protecting the Gulf of Mexico.

Bryon Griffith, Director of EPA’s Gulf of Mexico Program and GMRIT Chair, was awarded the Coastal America Leadership Award during the Coastal America



*Bryon Griffith, EPA receives Leadership Award from Director Tippi and Paul Cough, EPA.*

National Meeting in Washington, DC for his work to develop a coordinated outreach mechanism in the Gulf region.

In June, GMRIT representatives participated in the Mississippi Delta Nutrient Reduction Strategy Team meeting in Stoneville, MS. Highlights from the meeting included the documentation of over \$30 million in projects that have come to the Delta to help with nutrient reduction related activities through strong resource leveraging, coordination and partnership. The strategies are now in the full implementation phase.

In addition, in celebration of Earth Day GMRIT representatives, along with the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program and EPA Region 4, hosted the Mississippi Girl Scouts’ EcoAction badge event at Camp Iti Kana, near Wiggins, Mississippi, where the badge was awarded to 45 Girl Scouts. Staff from the Gulf Program and Region 4, along with Master Naturalist Julia O’Neal and Americorps Volunteer, Thomas Derbyshak, provided training for the Scouts.

### Northwest (NWRIT)

The NWRIT partners have been focusing primarily on educational and developmental projects during 2010. The NWRIT has been working with the AKRIT and the Alaska Sea Life Center to sponsor a team to attend the Coastal America Student Summit in 2011. The NWRIT has developed a promising lead with a corporation to initiate a Washington State Chapter of the CWRP.

### Red Salmon Creek Restoration Project Team Spirit Award

*The Nisqually Land Trust and its partners received the Coastal America Spirit Award on June 4th during an onsite celebration at the Red Salmon Creek Management Unit in the Nisqually River Delta near Olympia, Washington. This national award recognizes the Red Salmon Restoration Team for successfully collaborating to restore important salmon and migratory bird habitat in the Land Trust’s Red Salmon Creek Preserve. Team members include the Nisqually Land Trust, USFWS, Nisqually Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Veterans Conservation Corps, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Pierce County Stream Team, Intel Corporation, school groups, and other volunteers.*



*Students from the local Komachin Middle School help restore and protect the Nisqually Delta.*

*Coastal America chose the Red Salmon Creek project because of its substantial contribution to restoration of the Nisqually Delta, the largest estuary restoration project on the Pacific Coast, and its significant number of partners and volunteers. The Land Trust, with help from their partners and more than 200 volunteers, restored over 30 acres, including clearing 5 acres of blackberry and ivy from marsh, wetland and upland habitat and planting over 8,500 native trees and shrubs.*

### Alaska (AKRIT)

The AKRIT has been active on a range of projects during 2010. AKRIT held its annual meeting in February, in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment. The principals approved a process for developing and providing regional information and input for use by the Ocean Today Kiosk network. In June, an Ocean Today

#### Alaska ShoreZone Project Team Spirit Award

*The Alaska ShoreZone Imagery and Mapping Project Team was honored with a Coastal America Spirit Award at a luncheon ceremony on January 19, 2010, at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in Anchorage. Through its collaborative efforts with federal, state, and regional partners along with non-profit groups and local organizations, the Alaska ShoreZone Imagery and Mapping Project Team inventoried sensitive cultural, archaeological and environmental resources along the Alaska coast.*



*Team representatives Laura Baker, The Nature Conservancy, and Mandy Lindeberg, NOAA Fisheries, receive award from Jim Balsiger, then NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries.*

*Working together since 2001, the team collected over 45,000 km of coastal imagery vital to accurately classify and protect habitats, plan for long-term conservation, respond to oil spills, monitor and manage invasive species and support the effective management of Alaskan coasts. The team also took the initiative to make this important information available to the public and schools by educating teachers on how to use ShoreZone tools.*

Kiosk was installed at the Alaska Sea Life Center, CELC. Installation of the kiosk was made possible by contributions from AKRIT member agencies the National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Park Service.

### Great Lakes (GLRIT)

GLRIT partners have focused a great deal of energy in 2010 preparing for the next Coastal Zone (CZ) Conference which will be held July 17-21, 2011, in Chicago, Illinois. The CZ11 Conference, a biennial international symposium that began in 1978, is the largest international gathering of ocean and coastal management professionals in the world. The CZ Conference provides a platform for discussion of issues facing our world's oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, and a forum for discovering new strategies, solutions, and tools to plan for the future. (See page 19)

### Pacific Islands (PIRIT)

The PIRIT has had an exciting year of expansion and support for a variety of projects. In partnership with the Maui Land & Pineapple Company (ML&P), PIRIT participated in a habitat restoration effort involving the removal of alien species of plants and replanting with native Hawaiian endemics in the Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve on West Maui. Over 35 volunteers from a number of local organizations and businesses participated in the Coastal America community work day.

The Preserve begins at the summit of *Mauna Kahalawai* in the West Maui volcano and extends to Honolua Bay, a site protected by the State of Hawaii as a Marine Life Conservation District. The



*PIRIT volunteers restore Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve.*

area is home to a diverse assemblage of plant and animal species that do not exist anywhere else in the world. The Preserve is also one of the wettest spots on earth and the principal source of drinking water for the region.

As a follow-up to last year's Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Summit in Waimea, Kauai, PIRIT sponsored a Native Hawaiian *kupuna* or teacher's travel to the 2010 Alaska Forum on the Environment. The *kupuna* was asked to make presentations to a number of groups that included classes at the University of Alaska's Native Alaskan Studies Program. The contact resulted in a number of future projects involving students, programs and communities to share and bridge the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian cultural knowledge, traditional practices, and worldview. PIRIT is currently exploring ways to create an exchange program involving students from the respective indigenous communities. Such programs will strengthen the collaborative relationships between PIRIT and the rest of the Coastal America family in the 49th State.

PIRIT's reach in the "TEK world" extended to Fiji this year as staff were invited to present at the International Pacific Marine Educators Network (IPMEN) Conference. This enabled PIRIT to expand the Coastal America network to other Pacific island nations and communities. The outcomes of the 2009 TEK Summit on Kauai were of great interest to the indigenous communities present and resonated well with their beliefs and experiences in a changing world.

In collaboration with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and support from the Pacific Island Region of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, PIRIT participated in the 2010 Annual NOAA Fish Fry in Washington, D.C. PIRIT sponsored a visiting chef program that featured four "iron chefs" from American Samoa, and the University of Hawaii's Kapiolani Community College Culinary Arts Department.

## Learning Center Network Updates

The Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Network educates and involves the public in protecting our nation's coastal and ocean ecosystems, through a partnership of 23 learning centers located throughout the U.S., Mexico and Canada. Most of the learning centers are aquariums, but marine science centers and laboratories are also part of this dynamic network.



### Innovative National River Center Showcases Future of Ocean Learning

The National River Center is a \$40 million expansion to the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, dedicated to the story of the Mississippi River as well as other rivers of America, and their relationship to the ocean. The creative learning environment constructed in collaboration with federal agencies is an example of how the CELC Network can support the new National Ocean policy by educating the public on how the ocean and rivers impact their lives.

The Rivers to the Sea Gallery traces the paths which different sources of water take from headwaters to streams, rivers, and ultimately, to the ocean. Guests explore interactive exhibits, images, live ocean animals, touch screens, and models. This gallery includes *The Ocean Today* exploration kiosk, presented in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, NOAA and the Learning Center network. The gallery culminates in a dramatic presentation of exotic marine life housed within three cylindrical habitat aquariums and one 40,000 gallon Gulf of Mexico aquarium.

The National River Research Center highlights important research about

the science and history of rivers being conducted not only in this center, but at other institutions throughout the Mississippi River valley.

The RiverWAYS Gallery demonstrates the importance of America's rivers in both natural and cultural history and the vital roles they play today. Large-scale, immersion exhibits allow guests to explore the West and share in the adventures of early river explorers.



*RiverWAYS Gallery.*

The museum engages children in a series of delightful hands on water-based activities, including a "museum within a museum" with a stunning waterwheel entry, a 32 foot long flowing river, a bicycle pedal-powered water cycle exhibit, and a crawl-through beaver lodge. In addition, a large format 3D/4D theater uses cutting-edge technology to surround viewers with effects such as rain, wind, scent, special effect lighting, and seat movement.

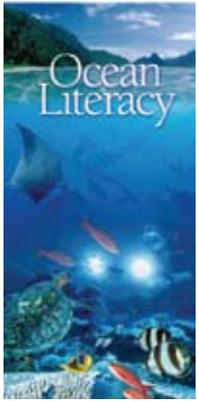
### North American Marine Protected Area Network (NAMPAN) Workshop

On May 17-18, the Aquarium of the Pacific hosted a Learning Center-National Marine Protected Area Network workshop for the Directors of the west coast, Alaska, Canada and Mexico Learning Centers. The purpose of this workshop was to identify ways to use the Learning Center network as an outreach mechanism for NAMPAN. Based on the outstanding success of the workshop, other Learning Centers across the nation are exploring ways to use the model to mobilize similar workshops in their region.

### International Student Summit on Ocean and Climate

Coastal America is in the process of organizing the third Student Summit on Coastal and Ocean Issues to be held February 14-18 2011. The focus of the Summit is to teach high school students the interconnectedness between our climate, and the ocean, Great Lakes, and inland seas, with emphasis on climate change and how government can support local adaptation efforts. Each of the 23 Learning Centers will be represented at the Summit by a delegation of four high school students and two educators. Prior to the start of the school year, Coastal America provided the 23 delegations

with educational resources and guidance. During the academic year students will develop action plans for an ocean/climate change issue relevant in their region. The students will then travel to Washington, DC to present their plans, discuss shared concerns and recommend national actions.



The 2011 Summit theme is based on the third principle of Ocean Literacy – “The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate”. This is one of a set of seven principles developed by the Ocean Literacy Network, as part of nation-

wide curricula. The purpose of the Summit is to inspire students to protect, preserve, and restore coastal ecosystems through community involvement and future academic and career paths.

### Interactive Exploration Command Stations Piloted

The Mystic Aquarium, a division of Sea Research Foundation, and the South Carolina Aquarium are working with NOAA and the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography on a program to showcase ocean exploration to the public. Funded by NOAA, the program will feature exciting new technology, Exploration Command Centers, which will provide the public with nearly real-time linkages to ocean exploration aboard the NOAA ships *Okeanos Explorer* and *Exploration Vessel Nautilus*. The University of Rhode Island’s Inner Space Center is serving as the hub to provide the technology and data feeds.

By linking audiences directly with the science that is being performed in nearly real-time, Exploration Command Centers allow visitors to experience the excitement of new discovery, gain



*Exploration Command Center*

a greater understanding of ocean and climate processes and better understand the importance of ocean exploration.

This pilot project is in testing at both Aquariums to determine visitor’s baseline knowledge about ocean exploration and elements of the public programs that will resonate well with audiences.

### Aquarium of the Pacific

Starting in January, 14 full-time members of the Education Department and Volunteer Services, began a 6-month professional development course on reflective practice taught by Education Specialist Emily Yam, Education Manager David Bader, and Education Director James Wood. The course, developed by the Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley, focused on learning theory and using reflection to improve the practice of informal educators.



*Emily Yam leads innovative educators’ development program.*

Partnered in this program were educators from the Stephen Birch Aquarium and the Virginia Aquarium. The course allowed informal education staff, who primarily have science backgrounds, to

discover the concepts of learning theory and adopt some of the professional language of educators.

The Aquarium of the Pacific will continue to participate in this program by hosting regional workshops on learning theory and best practices for other informal science education institutions and for science communicators.

### Alaska Sea Life Center

During the Coastal America National Meeting in Washington, DC, Ian Dutton, President, Alaska Sea Life Center was recognized with a CELC Leadership Award for his initiative in developing several innovative CELC network initiatives. Among the efforts made possible through his guidance, are a Citizen Science project with the North American Marine Protected Areas Network and an Arctic initiative in response to the National Ocean Policy priorities.



*Ian Dutton, President, Alaska Sea Life Center, receives Leadership Award from Director Tippie.*

### Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL)

The Mobile Manatee Sighting Network is tracking the movements of the first manatees tagged in Alabama waters, Bama and Bumpy. Monitoring was especially critical in the summer months when the animals were in danger of venturing into the oiled waters of the Gulf Coast. The manatees were sighted in Apalachicola Bay, Florida during an aerial recon assessment of the effects of

the oil spill. Indications are, however, that the animals may move further west, as per their usual migration pattern.

This year, DISL also participated in “Share the Beach”, a volunteer organization in Alabama dedicated to monitoring and protecting sea turtles and their nests during the nesting season. Volunteers patrol the beaches at dawn every morning looking for signs of sea turtle activity.



*Share the Beach volunteers relocate oil endangered turtles.*

Share the Beach volunteers did not see the hatching this year, since due to the Gulf oil spill, the nests were excavated and transferred to a safe location on Florida’s east coast to allow them to hatch and enter clean, safe ocean waters. To learn more about the status of Bama, Bumpy or the sea turtle hatchlings, visit Dauphin Island Sea Lab’s website at [www.disl.org](http://www.disl.org).

**The Florida Aquarium**

The Florida Aquarium celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March. The festivities and numerous community initiatives continued into June, with nine days of World Oceans Day recognition. Through an Association of Zoos & Aquariums initiative, Dr. Seuss-themed materials highlighted both World Oceans Day on June 8 and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the children’s book *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*. Admission discounts, giveaways, Dr. Seuss-themed dive shows, costumed characters, and Scout programs were among the featured activities.



*Dr. Seuss’ Thing One (diver) & Thing Two (narrator) share information about the health of our ocean.*

The Florida Aquarium commenced a “Junior Educators” program in March. The volunteer program is specifically designed for teens and provides young marine science enthusiasts training and content tailored to their age group.

Also in March, The Florida Aquarium welcomed families participating in a technology pilot project for hearing-impaired audiences. Families used an iPod Touch, with American Sign Language images, to enhance their visit. The project was conducted in partnership with Technical Education Research Centers and Vcom3D, a technology company dedicated to supporting literacy for hearing impaired students using innovative and interactive technology. Work to continue this effort is ongoing, with plans to include additional mobile devices and expanded science content.



*A young hearing-impaired visitor uses an iPod Touch to learn about coral reefs.*

The Florida Aquarium continues its work on the Gulf-wide Climate Change Community Outreach Initiative, a five-year NOAA-funded project in partnership with four additional CELCs (Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory, Texas State Aquarium, and Veracruz Aquarium) and the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Mississippi.

**International Game Fish Association (IGFA)**

The IGFA’s Education Outreach Program received the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation’s National Youth Boating and Fishing Initiative Grant. The grant award, totaling \$99,794, will allow IGFA to expand its outreach program across the country to get more kids actively involved in fishing and boating through hands-on activities, like fishing clinics, touch tank demonstrations and instruction on knot tying, bait rigging and casting. By introducing tens of thousands of children to fishing and boating, IGFA is hoping to not only create lifelong anglers, but stewards of our natural environment as well.



*Students participate in IGFA fishing clinic.*

The IGFA recently launched its web based revamped Junior Angler Program.

The overall goal and mission of the IGFA's Junior Angler Program is to get more kids actively involved in recreational fishing activities while understanding the need to conserve marine habitats and species. The revamped program includes "Fish, Explore, Discover, Learn," an interactive website full of pro fishing tips and tricks, species identification tips, biological information on marine and aquatic animals, games, contests, photo galleries and videos. The Junior Angler page is accessible from [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org) under the "Educate" tab.

### Monterey Bay Aquarium

This summer the Monterey Bay Aquarium's "Watsonville Area Teens Conserving Habitats" (WATCH) program expanded to include students from both Pajaro Valley High School and Watsonville High School. The yearlong program began over four weeks this past summer when 60 students hiked, kayaked and explored the Pajaro River and Watsonville coastline alongside aquarium staff, teachers and other local ecologists. The students used the scientific method to evaluate the health of three habitats – riparian, wetlands and coastal dunes.

During the school year, WATCH students are enrolled in environmental science or marine biology classes held several times per week by aquarium and high school staff. Based on their summer experiences in the Pajaro River Watershed, the teens identify, propose and pursue a larger project to create positive change through community-based conservation.

WATCH is designed to complement the school curriculum, build leadership and job skills and provide unique opportunities to engage students in their community. Teens in the WATCH program earn recognition for presentations on their conservation work at regional and national forums.

### North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher

In early June the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher hosted the "Surf It, Save It": Aquarium Surf Festival. Focused on promoting environmental stewardship through surfing and educating mainstream audiences about the surfing lifestyle, the weekend event was headlined by two internationally acclaimed surfers. Big wave surfer, Garrett McNamara, showcased his line of standup paddleboards and children's book, while former world champion and ambassador of surfing, Shaun Tomson, promoted his book, *Surfer's Code: 12 Simple Lessons for Riding Through Life*, and his documentary book/film, *Bustin' Down the Door*.



*Surfer Garrett McNamara with an aquarium visitor.*

Festival attendees learned about the connection between the environment and human health. Both NOAA's National Weather Service and the Cape Fear Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation distributed information about the weather, rip currents, and the effects of human-induced pollution on our beaches and waterways.

Beachgoers and aquarium visitors alike watched a US Coast Guard ocean rescue demonstration, participated in a beach cleanup of Masonboro Island and the Fort Fisher boat basin, tried out standup paddleboards, and watched the release of rehabilitated green sea turtles.

### North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores

A new tactile exhibit at the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores gives visitors a real feel for fish. The exhibit: "Fintastic! Weird and Wonderful Adaptations for Survival in the Sea", showcases distinctive teeth, tails, scales and other characteristics that help different fish species find food or evade predators. Fintastic also delivers information through touch and sound in addition to sight, making it uniquely accessible to people with vision impairments.



Fintastic includes life-sized models built for hands-on exploration. Touching the spadefish, tarpon, hammerhead shark and other replicas activates an audio guided tactile tour of each. The audio directs visitors where to place their hands to feel fins, mouth shape, eye position, body contours and other special features.

More than 100 volunteers, most of them with vision impairments, helped with the three years of research and testing that preceded the exhibit's design. Fintastic is in the Aquarium's Changing Exhibits Gallery until mid-2012. For more information, see [www.ncaquariums.com/pine-knoll-shores](http://www.ncaquariums.com/pine-knoll-shores).

### Shedd Aquarium

Students and teachers dive deep into underwater investigations with Shedd Aquarium's Underwater Robotics programs. Now in its second year, Underwater Robotics challenges learners to apply STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) principles as they create and implement their very own remotely operated vehicle.



*Students launch their underwater robot for a test run.*

The Underwater Robotics suite of programs includes a teacher training, an after school club for middle school students, and an annual regional student competition. Through these programs, students and teachers are challenged to complete underwater missions paralleling real-world scenarios such as submarine rescues and assessing deep sea volcanoes. The regional student competition feeds into the international competition organized by the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) center based in Monterey, CA, where students are exposed to careers in marine technology and exploration.

The Shedd Aquarium has received a renewal of \$50,000 from the Motorola Foundation's Innovation Generation grant to continue Underwater Robotics programming. In addition, Shedd is co-developing a national middle school underwater robotics curriculum with MATE as part of a National Science Foundation grant for informal science education.

### **Texas State Aquarium**

During the 2009-2010 school year, the Texas State Aquarium worked with a local STEM Academy to develop *Sunset Lake Invaders*. This invasive species project was funded by NOAA's Coastal Services Center through the Dauphin Island Sea Lab in support of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance environmental education initiative. High school students researched invasive plants, mapped species at a local park, submitted

data to an on-line database, and developed eradication recommendations to present to local city managers. Biologists from the USFWS-Aransas National Wildlife Refuge discussed invasive plant eradication processes with the students during the project.



*Innovation Academy students use GPS to map invasive plants.*

During National Wetlands Month in May, the Aquarium featured a USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service display—*Restoring America's Wetlands*. Resources on wetlands and conservation planning, as well as educational materials were available for students, teachers, and Aquarium guests.

Each year, Coastal America partner agencies provide guest speakers for Aquarium programs including home school programs, Scout Days, and summer camp, reaching well over 1,000 children.. This summer, Padre Island National Seashore, NOAA's National Weather Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard participated in the summer camp program.

### **The Vancouver Aquarium**

The Vancouver Aquarium continued a busy trend in conservation, research and education in the first half of 2010. The aquarium's travelling classroom, the BC HYDRO AquaVan reached its

most north east destination, bringing live marine life to northern Alberta. The curriculum-aligned program delivers knowledge, understanding and a connection to the world's ocean for students in remote locations.



The aquarium's "Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup" program launched a new website which builds awareness of shoreline litter issues - and makes registering a cleanup easier. All data collected during this annual September event is forwarded on to the International Coastal Cleanup, an initiative of The Ocean Conservancy. Check out their website: [www.shorelinecleanup.ca](http://www.shorelinecleanup.ca).

The aquarium's Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking Project (POST) expanded this spring with interactive exhibits in three galleries. POST's technology utilizes large-scale and long-term monitoring of marine animals. The exhibit features POST acoustic receivers, maps of listening lines, tracks of tagged animals and touch screens. Learn more at [www.postcoml.org](http://www.postcoml.org).

The Cetaceans Sighting Network's research paid off when a lone gray whale wandered into Vancouver's urban False Creek, and a pod of Pacific white-sided dolphins were spotted in Howe Sound. Aquarium staff responded immediately to the deluge of media and coast guard requests, while Vancouver residents enjoyed a unique experience. Find out more at: [www.wildwhales.org](http://www.wildwhales.org).

Finally, the aquariums' flagship sustainable seafood initiative, Ocean Wise, signed on its 380<sup>th</sup> business partner this spring. This innovative program has contributed to a major shift

in market preferences toward sustainable seafood with over 2,800 Ocean Wise partner locations now across Canada. Learn more at [www.oceanwise.ca](http://www.oceanwise.ca).

### Veracruz Aquarium

On April 15, the Veracruz Aquarium in Mexico unveiled an exhibit highlighting the priority issues of the Gulf, as outlined in the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Action Plan. The priority issues include: water quality, habitat conservation and restoration, ecosystem integration and assessment, nutrient and nutrient impacts and coastal community resilience. Similar exhibits will be installed in the 5 U.S. Gulf state CELC's in the near future. Installation and development of these exhibits is supported by the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program in cooperation with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Coastal America Partnership.



*Veracruz Governor Herrera Beltran interacts with the new exhibit at the Veracruz Aquarium.*



## Coastal America Partnership Award Ceremonies

The Coastal America Award Program recognizes outstanding collaborative projects and excellence in leadership for protecting, preserving and restoring the nation's coastal resources. Information on the Award Program can be found at: [www.coastalamerica.gov](http://www.coastalamerica.gov)

### Lynnhaven Oyster Restoration

On January 14, The Army Corps of Engineers Lynnhaven Oyster Restoration Project Team received a Coastal American Partnership Awards for their efforts to restore a 60-acre network of oyster reefs in the Lynnhaven River, Virginia. The reefs now function as a Marine Protected Area benefiting the ecosystem with increased oyster larval production throughout the river, improved juvenile fish habitat, and better water quality; it is the second largest network of its kind in the world. The Lynnhaven team will continue to collaborate between federal, state, local governments, academia and local non-profit organizations to expand the sanctuary to an additional 40 acres.

Colonel Andy Backus, commander of the Norfolk district, accepted the plaque on behalf of the Corps. Individual



*Karen Forget, Lynnhaven River Now, receives Partnership Award from Doug Lamont, USACE.*

member recognition plaques were also presented by awarding official Mr. Doug Lamont, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (project planning and review).

Karen Forget, Executive Director of Lynnhaven River Now, said, "This award will help shed light and bring awareness to the water quality of the Lynnhaven River and potentially other tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay."

### Purisima Point Least Tern Management

On March 24, Coastal America presented a Partnership Award to the Purisima Point Least Tern Management Team. The award ceremony was held in conjunction with the 75th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The project team lead, Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) manages 42 miles of California coastline and hosts the Purisima Point Least Tern colony, one of only three colonies between Monterey Bay and Point Conception. An important VAFB biodiversity program goal is to promote the growth of the Purisima Point colony



*Dan Ashe, DOI, with Least Tern Management Award Team.*

while maintaining the health of the surrounding ecosystem. To accomplish this objective, VAFB established a Least Tern Management Team, which worked collaboratively to accomplish ecosystem-based management of this endangered species.

The project involves a broad partnership, including: VAFB, which provided funding for the management team and erected and maintains an electric

fence around the Tern colony; PRBO Conservation Science biologists who conduct daily population and productivity monitoring; Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology personnel who engage in non-lethal removal of predators; and the USFWS that coordinates with all partners on the adaptive management of this precious resource.

**Ocean Conservation and Education Alliance Northwest**



*OCEAN Project Team.*

The Ocean Conservation and Education Alliance Northwest (OCEAN), a partnership of Oregon Sea Grant and several other coastal groups, received a Coastal America Partnership Award for outstanding efforts to restore and protect the coastal environment. The Award was presented to the OCEAN partnership on April 17 at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, OR. The OCEAN partnership came about three years ago as a result of discussions among the Sea Grant Education program at Oregon State University’s Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC), the Lincoln County School District, and the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The initial goal of the innovative partnership was to forge a partnership to help make local students among the most “ocean literate” in the country.

**Hail Cove Living Shoreline**

On April 21, public, private and corporate partners in the Hail Cove Living Shoreline project gathered at Skipjack Cove, Queenstown, MD, to

receive the Coastal America Partnership Award. This award was given to the Hail Cove team in recognition of their construction of low-profile headland breakwaters to protect the high priority habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and Maryland terrapins at the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge from the damaging effects of wind and wave erosion and help protect the natural shoreline. The design team placed sand within the rock breakwaters to create habitat and protect the shoreline at the back of Hail Cove. The team placed an arc of stone seeded with adult native oysters underwater between the breakwaters to create a reef system expected to have far-reaching benefits for water quality, waterfowl, finfish, shellfish and more.

“Through their dedication, the Hail Cove Project team worked collaboratively to reduce shore erosion, protect sensitive wildlife habitat, and create marsh for critical Chesapeake Bay wildlife, including waterfowl, crab, and fish species. Successful conservation and preservation of the Nation’s resources would not be possible without the determination and dedication of partners such as these,” noted Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, in his letter of recognition.

Volunteers planted the restored shoreline with native wetland plants and shoreline

grasses to create habitat suitable for diamondback terrapin nesting and migratory shorebird feeding. This living shoreline also added protection to the submerged aquatic vegetation beds in Hail Creek that are so vital to foraging migratory waterfowl.

Dan Ashe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Deputy Director for Policy, served as the awarding official for the event. At the conclusion of the ceremony, participants traveled via boat to see the living shoreline area, the restored coastal wetlands and the wildlife these areas support.

**Connecticut Tidal Wetland Restoration**

On May 24th The Connecticut Tidal Wetland Restoration Team received the Coastal America Partnership Award at a ceremony at Rocky Neck State Park, East Lyme, CT. This award was bestowed upon the team in recognition of their outstanding efforts to accomplish coastal restoration, preservation and protection projects over the past 3 decades. Laura Furgione, Assistant Administrator NOAA , was the awarding official.

This project team began working together in the early 1980’s, when restoration was an immature science. The combined knowledge of various experts and the participation by state and federal permit staff made it possible



*Connecticut Tidal Wetland Restoration Team.*

for ecological restoration projects to become eligible for federal general permits in 1987 and, shortly thereafter, state general permits. The participation by wetland scientists and a range of resource managers together with the permit agency 'field pre-application review' gave this approach a high level of credibility.

In a letter of recognition to the team, Department of Commerce Secretary Gary Locke wrote "Your team's long term dedicated efforts and thoughtful collaboration streamlined the process, conserved resources and ultimately resulted in the restoration of over 1,148 acres of tidal flow at 71 different sites. Even more impressively, as one of the first such groups to work in concert, your team helped establish Connecticut as a national leader in collaborative salt marsh restoration."

### Fishing for Energy Partnership

On June 23, Fishing for Energy, a unique partnership that provides fishermen with a cost-free solution to recycle and recover energy from old fishing gear, received the Coastal America Partnership Award. Established in 2008, Fishing for Energy is an initiative among Covanta Energy Corporation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NOAA's Marine Debris Program, and Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.



*David Kennedy, Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services, NOAA, with the Fishing for Energy Team.*

Fishing for Energy is dedicated to reducing the financial burden placed on commercial fishermen as they routinely dispose of retired fishing gear and

limiting the amount of abandoned or lost fishing gear that ends up in U.S. coastal waters. Abandoned or lost fishing gear can threaten marine life and impact navigational safety, with resulting economic repercussions on fishing and shipping enterprises and coastal communities. Gear collected at participating ports is stripped of metals for recycling with the help of Schnitzer Steel and processed into clean, renewable energy at the nearest Covanta Energy-from-Waste facility.



*Senator Inouye speaks at Fishing for Energy Award ceremony.*

Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) spoke at the ceremony about the importance of addressing the problem of marine debris in innovative ways and the value of working together in partnership. The senator remarked "The Fishing for Energy partnership is a powerful example of the success that can come from a partnership between government, the NGO community, and private industry." To date more than 350 tons, or 700,000 pounds of fishing gear has been collected. This Fishing for Energy process is producing clean energy, reducing our dependence on imported fuels, providing a solution for managing waste, and eliminating the need for landfills.

For more information visit:  
[www.nfwf.org/fishingforenergy](http://www.nfwf.org/fishingforenergy).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Coastal America Staff Changes

The Coastal America National Office welcomes David Batson as our new Deputy Director for Outreach and Regional Coordination. David has over 30 years of experience assisting government, industry and community stakeholders reach agreements on environmental and public policy matters in his former position as Senior Collaboration & ADR Specialist for US EPA, including coordination of interagency partnerships and facilitation of regional collaborative efforts. David has served for over 20 years as a mediator and facilitator of complex environmental and public policy issues, and is a frequent speaker for government and private organizations.

The Coastal America National Office bids a sad farewell to Scott Johnson who has served with distinction as our CWRP Coordinator supporting the efforts of the CWRP National Committee and the Coastal America Foundation. Scott returns to his position as Supervisory Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Scott's skill and gracious spirit will be greatly missed.

*Help the Coastal America Award Program recognize great project teams. Please keep an eye out for those innovative projects and encourage teams to apply.*

*Nominations are due on June 30th each year and selection of award teams takes place in the summer with Partnership Awards distributed throughout the fall/winter.*

## Coastal America Celebrates Earth Day

### “4 for 40” Program Celebrates Earth Day

The Coastal America Southeast Team, in cooperation with CH2MHill, a CWRP member, mobilized to create an innovative Earth Day program this year. In light of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EPA and Earth Day, the Team developed a “4 for 40” program to encourage people to do 4 things for the environment. The web based program includes a list of things that the public can do to get up, get outside and help the environment. The site also includes testimonials, pledges, games, volunteer opportunities, events, a partner page and more. Coastal America and its Learning Center partners promoted the “4 for 40” Program by disseminating a specially designed electronic poster and handing out paper versions during Earth Day activities and events nationwide. You can join the “4 for 40” program at [www.gacwrp.org/4for40](http://www.gacwrp.org/4for40).

### Earth Day National Casting Call

On April 22, Coastal America celebrated Earth Day by participating in the 2010 Jim Range National Casting Call at Fletcher’s Boathouse on the Potomac River in Washington DC. The goal of the event is to give members of Congress, agency officials and congressional staff the opportunity to connect the legislative work they do on fisheries conservation and education to the fun of a day on

the water. Participants fished the Potomac’s spring shad run and saw firsthand how creative conservation partnerships are making a difference for fisheries across the country. Coastal America’s outreach booth provided interesting information and materials from federal partners and other items, such as the Earth Day inspired “4 for 40” poster.



*Coastal America's Carli Bertrand talks with students at the 2010 Casting Call.*

**Coastal Zone**  
**2011 Chicago, Illinois**  
JULY 17 TO 21, 2011  
HYATT REGENCY CHICAGO

**Winds of Change:**  
Great Lakes  
Great Oceans  
Great Communities

**CZ11 partners to date:**  
**NOAA, DOI, USACE, EPA**

**Abstracts for CZ11 are due October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

For more information on the conference or to submit your abstract, go to  
<http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm>

**Third Student Summit**



Coastal America will host a Student Summit on the Ocean and Climate February 14-17, 2011 in Washington, DC. Each of the 23 Learning Centers will be represented at the Summit by a delegation of 4 students and 2 educators.

**Regional Chairs/Contacts**

**NORTHEAST**

Bill Hubbard..... 978-318-8552

**MID-ATLANTIC**

Tai-ming Chang ..... 215-814-2761

Mario DelVicario ..... 212-637-3779

Jennifer Greiner ..... 410-267-5783

Roselle Henn ..... 917-790-8620

**SOUTHEAST**

Jim Giattina..... 404-562-9470

Tom Welborn ..... 404-562-9354

**GULF OF MEXICO**

Bob Bosenberg ..... 504-862-2522

John Bowie..... 228-688-3888

Bryon Griffith..... 228-688-1172

**SOUTHWEST**

Pat Rutten ..... 707-575-6059

**PACIFIC ISLANDS**

Kelvin Char ..... 808-944-2213

**NORTHWEST**

Mark Brown ..... 503-375-5686

Rick Parkin ..... 206-553-8574

**ALASKA**

Douglas Mutter ..... 907-271-5011

John Kurland ..... 907-586-7638

**GREAT LAKES/UPPER MISSISSIPPI**

John Perrecone ..... 312-353-1149

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.



**COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE**

300 7th Street, SW, Suite 680  
Reporters Building  
Washington, DC 20250-0180

**Coastal America Office**

*Virginia Tippie, Director*

*David Batson, Deputy Director and  
Outreach Regional Coordinator*

*Carli Bertrand, Policy Advisor, and  
Partnership Awards Coordinator*

*Maggy Hunter, CELC Coordinator*

*Gwendolyn Archer-Pailen, Office Manager*

Telephone: 202-401-9928 • Fax: 202-401-9821  
<http://www.coastalamerica.gov>