



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

Spring Issue

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FUTURE OCEAN LEADERS ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON

On Valentine's Day 2011, the Coastal America partnership brought 80 teens and more than 40 educators from across America together to kick off the 3rd National Student Summit on the Ocean and Coasts. These high school students and their accompanying teachers spent four days in Washington, DC, culminating an effort that had started at least 9 months earlier. That process began in early September, 2010. Students, selected competitively by their schools, formed teams and developed action plans, then began setting those plans in motion. Twenty student delegations from 18 states—and one from Veracruz, Mexico—arrived in the Nation's capital for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. With all of their travel and participation expenses covered by Coastal America partners, doors were flung open to these fortunate students—and they embraced this opportunity with exuberance!

Designed to develop future ocean scientists and leaders, and to teach high school students about the interconnectedness between the ocean, coasts, Great Lakes, inland seas and



The delegation from Monterey Bay Aquarium, one of twenty attending the Student Summit.

climate, the theme of this Student Summit was the Third Principle of Ocean Literacy: The ocean is a major influence on climate and weather—and its inverse. It is one of seven essential principles of K-12 ocean sciences established in 2005 by the National Marine Educators Association. Back in January 2004, the Coastal America federal partnership and its network of CELCs organized the 1st National Student Summit on Ocean Issues. One highlight of the first summit was the opportunity to provide a student voice in the deliberations of the U.S Commission on Ocean Policy. The summit participants addressed such coastal issues as tidal power, habitat restoration, conservation of wildlife, and ocean literacy programs. In 2006, Coastal America celebrated its 10-year partnership with the Learning Centers by hosting the 2nd National Student Summit on Oceans and Coasts. Bringing formal and informal educators together with students, the gathering

was intended to advance an ocean-literate and involved citizenship that went beyond summit participation and school curricula.

The purpose of the 3rd summit was threefold: (1) to educate, inspire and engage the next generation of leaders in marine science, resource protection and ocean governance; (2) to engage students in collaborative action to address local coastal issues; and (3) to

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Representative McIntyre with North Carolina delegation on Capitol steps.

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foster stewardship by creating ocean-literate citizens. The process of educating and engaging this next generation of potential leaders was set in motion when they embarked on their projects at the individual Learning Centers. They developed together as teams, and they improved their ocean literacy—and all before they had gotten in a car or stepped on a plane to attend the Summit.

At the Summit, the students and their teachers were inspired by the likes of Jim Toomey, creator of Sherman's Lagoon, sketching his well known comic characters even as he spoke; uplifted by the magic of the Cousteau legacy when Jean-Michel Cousteau told them tales of the deep, then questioned them about their research at the poster reception; and listened to by Congress when they gave voice to their concerns about the future of the ocean.

An exceptional feature of the gathering was that it provided the students with unprecedented access to national ocean leaders, with speakers from senior levels of government and the nongovernmental community. On their first official evening in town, students were welcome by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Director of Policy, Sally Yozell, who described the Administration's efforts

"The National Summit on the Ocean and Coasts helped open my eyes to the power and position our generation has."

— student delegate

to address the nation's coastal and ocean issues. At the start of day two, February 15th, in Baird Auditorium in the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), Dr. Nancy Knowlton, Sant Chair for Marine Science at the NMNH, challenged the students when she thanked them, "... for asking not only what your ocean can do for you, but what you can do for our ocean." In response, the student delegations began enthusiastically presenting their action plans to panels of ocean experts as well as an attentive audience. Though some of these high school students might have been nervous, their poise and evident preparation was more characteristic of undergrad or even graduate-level work. All of the delegations received constructive suggestions on improving their projects from the panel experts sent by federal agencies and private organizations. These experts delivered praise but also asked penetrating questions and made insightful suggestions to each of the delegations, intent on ensuring that the students got the utmost possible out of their experience.

In an innovative use of social media, the February 15 events at the Summit were also streamed live to a nationwide audience, via the Smithsonian's Ocean Portal, with a continuous interactive discussion on the student presentations via Twitter. Entire classes and even schools tied in to watch; the Summit broadcast website received more than 85,000 hits. The Smithsonian has archived the student presentations as



Aquarium of the Pacific delegation at Smithsonian Ocean Hall poster reception.

well as Jean Michel Cousteau's evening presentation; they are available for viewing at <http://ocean.si.edu/>.

At the end of this challenging day, participants and other guests were treated to a captivating evening presentation by Jean-Michel Cousteau with introduction and remarks by Dr. Larry Robinson, NOAA Assistant Secretary for Conservation & Management and Laura Davis, Chief of Staff, Department of Interior. Although Cousteau's concerns about the condition of the ocean brought some somber moments, his gentle humor, entertaining stories of his adventures, and splendid video clips kept the audience entranced—until it was time to redirect all that energy and head up to the private reception and poster session in the Sant Ocean Hall. Inspired and exhausted by their day, tomorrow's outstanding ocean scientists and leaders socialized, answered questions about their projects, ate, drank and enjoyed the Ocean Hall exhibits.



Students work on converting car from gas to electric.

At the Aquarium of the Pacific, students are addressing Los Angeles' excessive carbon footprint by educating informal audiences through an interactive climate change solutions-based game. Leading by example, these students are also in the midst of converting a donated gas-engine car into an electric powered outreach vehicle.



Coastal America Student Summit February 14 - 17, 2011 Washington, DC





**2011 Student Summit on the Ocean and Coasts
PROCLAMATION**

We are the world's future; 80 of today's generation gathered in Washington, DC, united by a common cause: To preserve and protect our ocean, coasts and inland waterways. We have shared the joys of political party, economic backgrounds, race, and more nationality to come together and show our support for a cleaner, healthier world. We are not alone, we represent our museum, our school, our town, our State, meeting with legislators and adults, who share our ideas, our values, and our vision. We stand here to work with Congress on these important issues.

Coast to coast, people are adding to the global crisis that is drastically affecting their own communities. Our delegates see the impact that there are places where the ocean is rising and destroying the beautiful, nature scenery, that ocean modification is ruining the way of life of the Surooshish Tribe and other coastal people. There are places in Alaska where there are no recycling programs within a two-hour drive, discouraging many from recycling. Human beings are being careless. We see this in Chicago where green dye is dumped in the Chicago River for St. Patrick's Day and in Los Angeles where the car culture is raising the air, raising management levels. This is a global issue and it needs to change.

We are all here because we are passionate about changing our future for the better. We, this delegation of young adults, are here from all over coastal North America to remind Congress to have our voices of concern for the steadily rising sea level rising. From the farthest islands to local beaches, climate change is affecting us, taking our water, destroying our coastline and wetlands, and threatening our livelihoods. Lack of awareness and concern from present and future generations have brought us here in search of support from you, the people who represent us. We are in need of your assistance in creating solutions for the pressing issues that are plaguing our communities, pushing our society towards inevitable peril.

Currently, we are taking action ourselves. We are, in our individual communities, inspiring recycling programs, promoting the use of reusable and biodegradable products, restoring ecosystems, and most importantly, educating the public. We educate by performing plays, presenting videos, designing websites, and distributing informative pamphlets. As Joseph Conrad once said, "People perfect what they demand." Our goal is to share our knowledge with the public in the hope of broadening their understanding about global oceans issues and inspiring them to alter their life choices.

We request that Congress, in the face of budget cuts, take action to invest in our future and the health of our ocean, coasts and inland waterways. We request that Congress preserve and expand federal education programs, especially those promoting global environmental stewardship. We request that carbon emissions be recognized as the dominant pollutant that they are and be strictly regulated by federal agencies. We request federal support for accessible recycling programs in schools and communities, which will yield not only environmental, but also economic benefits in the long run. We believe that it is time that U.S. citizens learn what Native Americans have always known, in order to show respect for the seven generations before and the seven generations to follow, we must protect our earth and its resources.



Learning, Teaching and Consensus Building Day Two of the Student Summit

The second full day of the Summit had a very different agenda. Students and teachers ate breakfast with sea critters at the National Aquarium, where they heard from several administration officials, including Mary Glackin, Deputy Undersecretary for Operations at NOAA who welcomed the students to the Commerce building and introduced the keynote speaker, Shere Abbot, Associate Director for Environment and Energy of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Ms. Abbot, who co-chairs the Steering Committee for the National Ocean Council discussed the President's National Ocean Policy and his commitment to the ocean.

“The Student Summit strengthened our delegation’s motivation to make changes in our local community, showing us that we were not alone; there is a dedicated network of students, teachers, and experts who are working toward the same goals.”

— teacher

Following breakfast and a brief workshop overview, students and educators headed off in different directions for workshops tailored specifically for them. The student session began with an interactive learning session lead by Debra Kerr, Executive Director of YouthMuse. The clinic, “Youth Campaigns – Using What you Know to Influence Others,” empowered participants with techniques they can use to serve as effective innovators and teachers within their own communities. With their new skills, the students then met in a series of facilitated sessions to develop a consensus of their concerns about the condition of the ocean and their hopes for the future. Their impressive labors stretched well into the evening and

resulted in a Proclamation signed by the students and presented to Congress and the Administration on the final day of the Summit.

Meanwhile, classroom teachers and aquarium educators got together to discuss their own targeted issues of concern. In the morning, they heard about exciting opportunities being offered by the National Museum of Natural History, including the Ocean Portal web site and a planned new education resource center. The Ocean Portal (www.ocean.si.edu) was developed by collaborators from across the ocean science and management communities and contains interesting stories and photos that range across a spectrum of ocean-relevant topics. The museum also took advantage of a roomful of educators to find out what their thoughts were on several key questions. They were asked:

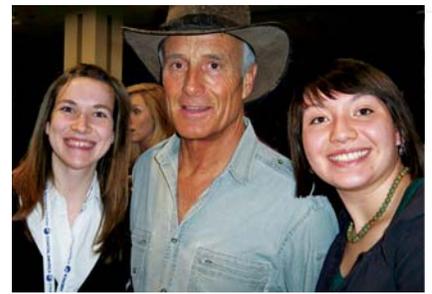
- If money were no object, what would be the fantasy ocean lesson/activity you would want to do in or out of the classroom?
- What kind of ocean resources are you using and how did you find out about them? How would you rank them?
- What are some trends and issues around content and technology in your classroom or aquarium that would impact the resources we develop and disseminate?

Educators broke out into groups to answer the questions, providing considerable feedback for the museum facilitators. After a break for lunch, the group had the opportunity to work with Douglas Meyer, a renowned communications consultant with The Ocean Project and other conservation groups. With support from NOAA, The Ocean Project conducted market research on people’s attitudes about the ocean. This public opinion data

and analysis is being used across the country to design strategic education and communications programs to promote ocean conservation. The data can be found online at www.oceanproject.org. Douglas presented the marketing studies of The Ocean Project and worked with the group on defining specific objectives for their programs.

At the same time, on both Tuesday & Wednesday, the JASON project—a nonprofit founded in 1989 to connect students with scientists in real and near-real time—was onsite and very involved. Student reporters from the organization circulated, informally questioning student delegates about their projects and the impacts of climate change on their communities. A JASON staffer also conducted in-depth studio interviews at the museum with a number of delegations, describing their projects and videos during a live broadcast for an international audience. See these at: http://www.jason.org/science/Live/coastal_america/jason/event.aspx.

The day’s events were capped with a gala reception on Capitol Hill. Hosted by the America Zoo and Aquarium Association, at the Rayburn Congressional Office Building, guests were entertained by keynote speaker Jack Hanna, zookeeper and wildlife expert, who brought with him some very special and popular animal visitors, including cheetahs, flamingos and penguins.



Jack Hanna with Alaska SeaLife Center delegates.

Capstone Day at the Student Summit

For the final day of the Summit, the delegations returned to Capitol Hill, where, paired with a legislative liaison from one of the sponsoring agencies, and accompanied by their mentors, they were escorted through the halls of the House and Senate to visit their Congressional representatives. The Summit culminated in a luncheon in the Rayburn House Building, with many students excitedly sharing stories about those morning meetings and the lessons they would take back to their communities. They presented a copy of the signed Proclamation that they had developed at their Wednesday

workshop to Congressman Sam Farr from California, who is also co-chair of the bipartisan House Ocean Caucus. Copies were also presented to Dr. Rebecca Blank, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Commerce, as a representative of the Administration, and to Jean-Michel Cousteau, as a representative of nongovernmental organizations. The proclamation—which spoke to the students’ passionate concern for the ocean and coasts, declared that they “have erased the lines of political party, economic background, race and even nationality to come together to show our support for a cleaner, healthier world.” They emphasized that, “...we are



Mystic Aquarium delegation meets with Representative Joe Courtney on last day of Summit.

taking action ourselves,” ...and asked, “that Congress, in the face of budget cuts, take action to invest in our future and the health of our oceans, coasts and inland waterways.” They stated their belief, “...that it’s time that US citizens learn what Native Americans have always known; in order to show respect for the seven generations before and seven generations to follow, we must protect our Earth and its resources.”

The students’ consensus-building effort to create this document, and indeed the entire Student Summit exemplifies the type of collaborative process that is a Coastal America hallmark. Bringing together students, teachers, representatives of aquaria, federal, state and local agencies, the private sector, congressional leaders, and even celebrity ocean advocates creates a rare synergy, enhancing effectiveness in education and conservation.



Student delegations present proclamation on Capitol Hill.



Students in the field.

The delegation from Monterey Bay Aquarium, all Latino, targeted their own neighborhoods with the catchphrase, “Su casa es mi casa,” a reversal of the more-conventional, “my house is your house.” The students looked at the problems we are causing in the sea from the ocean life’s point of view, i.e., “our land-generated pollution is messing up their home.”

Learning Center Network Updates

The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) network educates and involves the public in protecting our nation's coastal and ocean ecosystems. Most of the 23 Learning Centers are aquariums, but marine science centers and laboratories also comprise this dynamic network.

West Coast CELCs Working Together

Last May, Coastal America and some 20 representatives of west coast and Pacific CELCs met with NOAA staff at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California to explore areas for closer collaboration regarding marine protected areas MPAs. The workshop generated two proposals. One of those, a citizen science initiative (i.e., involving the public in the process of science, usually as a volunteer) to facilitate partnerships between CELCs and marine protected area managers, was featured at a session of the Second International Marine Conservation Congress, May 14-18, 2011 in Victoria, Canada. Citizen science can be a valuable method for establishing and expanding public engagement in marine conservation. Citizen science can help to:

- educate people about what MPAs are and why they are important;
- overcome resistance to marine conservation including the establishment of MPAs;
- provide additional resources for conservation management; and
- improve public understanding of, and connection to, marine conservation and MPAs

There are many examples where citizen science underway at CELCs has contributed to marine conservation and the establishment, management and monitoring of MPAs. However, there have been relatively few efforts

to systematically evaluate how effective these programs have been and what might be done to improve citizen science efforts in marine conservation.

The citizen science workshop was co-led by Ian Dutton (Alaska SeaLife Center) and Jerry Schubel (Aquarium of the Pacific) and featured global citizen science efforts in support of marine conservation that:

- a. provide examples of good practice(s) that have led to positive marine conservation/MPA management outcomes;
- b. evaluate approaches and methods that have failed to deliver useful marine conservation/MPA management outcomes; and
- c. identify areas of emerging marine conservation and MPA management issues and practices where citizen science might be deployed in the future.

Outcomes are being compiled in a booklet and online publication that will be shared with citizen science practitioners and MPA managers via the CELC network.

Alaska SeaLife Center

The Alaska SeaLife Center is working with the National Park Service and other AKRIT members to generate new regional stories for the Ocean Today Kiosk in Alaska. Stories in production include an initiative to promote sustainably-harvested Alaskan



Ocean Today Kiosk at Alaska SeaLife Center.

seafood, the eradication of rats from Rat Island in the Bering Sea and interviews with residents of coastal communities increasingly being affected by climate change.

The Aquarium of the Pacific

The aquarium's partnership with 2 local schools kicked into high gear this spring. The program brings hands-on and standards-based science lessons to the 1500 students at Washington Middle and Chavez Elementary schools. Aquarium educators hosted three after-school events for the middle school students, two family field trips to local informal science centers, and two professional development opportunities for teachers at both schools. The aquarium-led lessons



Aquarium of the Pacific visitors.

included labs on erosion, plankton, pH, air velocity, sustainable seafood, kelp forests, magnets, camouflage, matter, whales and more. Students at both schools have visited the aquarium throughout the spring semester as a part of this educational partnership.

Acuario de Veracruz

On March 3, 2011 the students who comprised the Mexican delegation to the Student Summit received a letter from Arturo Sarukhan, the Mexican ambassador to the United States, in which the adolescents were recognized for their exceptional presentation at the 3rd Student Summit. This kind of high level encouragement, given by many others during the course of the Student

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Summit, both inspires this young generation and gives them the support to continue to study these important fields. On March 13, the Veracruz Aquarium was invited to participate as an international component in



Veracruz Team in the field.

the Intracoastal Waterway Wetlands Expedition hosted by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation. The expedition, promotes the motto “Two Countries, One Gulf,” and is a five day expedition that teaches participants about the environment and economy of the Gulf coast by way of fieldwork and hands-on activities.

The Florida Aquarium

The Florida Aquarium celebrated an important community milestone this winter. Since opening in 1995, the Aquarium has welcomed over one million youth through its doors for field trips, hands-on classroom experiences, camps, sleepovers, and other exciting education programs.



Celebrating a Million Youth Milestone.

In addition to reaching out to youngsters, adult education continues to grow as well. In its seventh year, the Evening Tide Talks lecture series reached the highest number of attendees to date. A five-speaker series from late fall to

early spring, 2010-2011 was well-received; the following speakers attracted capacity audiences: Carl Hiaasen (award-winning author), Roberta Fernandez (Planet Partnership), Gerarde DeTore (Panama Canal Museum), Dr. Clyde Roper (Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History), and Dr. Ivano Aiello (Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in California). Dr. Aiello’s appearance was made possible by The Consortium for Ocean Leadership’s Distinguished Lecturer Program. In addition to evening lectures, the Aquarium continued a partnership with the University of South Florida’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to provide hands-on and engaging continuing education programs for active seniors. The Aquarium also hosted its first “21 and up” Member Night on March 24th, with programming and information developed for adults interested in an in-depth immersion into life science content and programs. And in an effort to better reach out to the community, the Aquarium launched its first comprehensive Spanish-language audio tour in March with funding from AT&T.

Another milestone for The Florida Aquarium was the awarding of a sixth grant for climate change education. Through a grant from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the Aquarium is beginning *Teens Teaching Tweens about the Coast*, a service learning project in which high school students will be trained by Aquarium educators and mentored by their teachers to deliver climate change education programming to middle school students. The Aquarium has also initiated a joint endeavor with the University of South Florida through the NSF-funded *Coastal Areas Climate Change Education Partnership*. Efforts continue on a Gulf-wide *Climate Change Community Outreach Initiative*, a five-year NOAA-funded partnership with Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory, Texas

State Aquarium, the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, and Veracruz Aquarium.

National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium

The museum has an exciting new exhibit that opened on June 5th. “In the Dark” features nocturnal animals and highlights environments that thrive after darkness falls. Visitors are surrounded by the sights, sounds, smells and sensations of ecosystems at night below the ground, inside caverns and deep under the sea. Meanwhile, the year old Rivers to the Sea gallery continues to draw enthusiastic crowds.

The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher

For Coastal America’s 3rd Student Summit, the delegation from The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher focused on climate education. Students from the Isaac Bear Early College High School created a film focusing on potential impacts of a changing climate, paying particular attention to how those changes affect unique resources in the Cape Fear Region. The group and their mentor traveled across the county to interview scientists, small business owners, and activists to learn about climate change and how it may affect the region they call home. Activities included a boat trip up the Cape Fear River and a hike on Baldhead Island, a barrier island community where cars are illegal and everyone’s backyard is part of a research reserve. Students also visited Holly Shelter Game Lands which is a unique habitat in the region. It is very diverse and made up of low pocosin, wiregrass uplands, and bald cypress swamps.

The result of this project will be a 20-30 minute video called, “We Sea Change.” The video will be hosted on iTunes U and YouTube along with a supplemental curriculum guide. The goal is to share

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the video so it can be used to educate teens across the country. Even after the Student Summit, the students are continuing the interviews and have begun the editing process. The film will premiere at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher on September 28th. For more information on the premiere please contact megan.ennes@ncaquariums.com. For more information on the project please visit the team's wiki at: <http://capefearstudentsummit.wikispaces.com>. You can also read about the work students are doing in their own words on their blog: www.capefearstudentsummit.blogspot.com.

North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island

This summer at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island guests will have the opportunity to save their very own sea turtle in *Operation: Sea Turtle Rescue* a fun, hands-on exhibit which simulates the steps taken to rehabilitate endangered sea turtles! These gentle creatures face many threats year-round that affect their continued survival. Countless hours are contributed by staff from the aquarium and volunteers from N.E.S.T. (Network for Endangered Sea Turtles) to nurse stranded sea turtles back to health.

Visitors are encouraged to “rescue” a small turtle replica as they enter the exhibit and take it to a diagnostic station. The replica is programmed with one of six possible stories, activated when the turtle is placed on the diagnostic station. The visitor will then be prompted to perform a mock x-ray, blood test, and physical exam, resulting in the determination of what threat has affected their turtle. At a nearby rehabilitation station a video, featuring a staff aquarist, explains to the visitor what procedures need to be taken in order to heal their turtle. Based on what they've learned in the video, the visitor will perform simulated treatment and place their turtle replica in a rehabilitation tank.

Finally, the turtle will be returned to the “sea,” allowing the next visitor to have a similar experience.

The Wildlife Conservation Society-New York Aquarium

The New York Aquarium *Teens in Conservation Program* enables large cohorts of students from New York City to engage in environmental learning in a meaningful way. In operation for over 40 years, the *Teen Docent* program offers teens the opportunity to receive extensive training to become Aquarium



Teen docent with visitors at touch tank.

docents (i.e., exhibit interpreters) and to share their newfound knowledge with the over 700,000 guests who visit the Aquarium annually. This winter they hosted for the second time the *Careers in Aquatic Research and Education (CARE)* program – a 50-hour career-exposure workshop geared towards early high school students. *CARE* offers participants further opportunities to learn about the variety of interdisciplinary professional and scientific careers available in aquatic conservation and education. Through both the summer *Teen Docent* and the winter *CARE* programs, the New York Aquarium engages over 100 young adults each year who become more enthusiastic about environmental stewardship, more conversant with environmental science concepts, and more aware of career options relating to marine biology and ecology.

This summer, the New York Aquarium plans to expand its outreach efforts by implementing a public awareness program that will focus on local marine

diversity and conservation. The “*Sea Life at the Beach*” program will target Aquarium visitors and Coney Island beach goers alike. On their campus, guests will be guided by Teen Docents to areas of exciting collections that highlight habitats and species existing in their own backyard. The *On the Beach* component of this outreach effort will offer beach-side visitors the chance to discover signs of life on the sandy shore. With carts, biofacts, and demonstrations at the ready, the Teen Docents will be prepared to provide hands-on activities that will engage and inspire boardwalk strollers and curious visitors of all ages.

Seattle Aquarium

The Suquamish student delegation to the 3rd Student Summit returned home and has continued to implement their action plan of raising awareness of ocean acidification and its impacts on tribal communities to the public. After the Summit, students showed their film, “Our Home” and gave a short presentation at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian. They also visited with Representative Jay Inslee, who met with them to discuss the impacts of ocean acidification on the Suquamish community. Inslee led a public hearing on climate change and ocean acidification with Senator Maria Cantwell at the Seattle Aquarium in 2008.

Upon returning home, the students were honored by the Suquamish Tribe in an appreciation ceremony and luncheon with tribal elders, school officials, and participating partners, which included the Tribal Fisheries department and Seattle Aquarium. Students used this opportunity to talk about how ocean acidification will affect the tribe.

Representatives from the student delegation also presented their action plan and film to the Washington Science Teachers Association and Environmental Education Association of Washington

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joint conference in March, and discussed how students can take action to educate the public on this important environmental issue.

Seattle Aquarium and the Suquamish Early College High School are continuing their partnership through the Citizen Science High School Nearshore Monitoring program. Students will be monitoring the Suquamish Tribal Beach next to their school during low tide days to look at long-term changes over time by surveying marine organisms and characterizing habitat, substrate, and slope of their beach. This is part of their stewardship commitment to conservation of their local nearshore resource.

The students are also continuing their work on a film to further their message about ocean acidification, and will include footage taken of the delegation through Longhouse Media. One of the delegates, Erica Cardiel is now interested in pursuing a career path in filmmaking after graduating from high school this spring.

South Carolina Aquarium

Since the Student Summit in February, the South Carolina delegation has been working on finalizing their activities and presentations for introducing local school children (kindergarten through second grade) to how climate change is negatively impacting sea turtles, how they are losing their nesting beaches in South Carolina and how they can help. The delegation will visit schools until the end of the school year; during the summer, they will give presentations at a local Children's Museum, targeting young children and their families. The goal is to ensure that younger generations learn positive means for helping these amazing marine animals, and care about the habitats that protect them.

The Texas State Aquarium

Since returning from the 3rd Student Summit, the delegation has been

working to implement their action plan by producing a short informational brochure on the status of oysters in South Texas, which provides pertinent facts about oysters and their importance to the ecosystem. The students have also created an oyster photo cut-out board



Ocean Kiosk Today Display at Texas State Aquarium.

for people to take pictures of themselves as part of an oyster reef and developed fun fact/coloring sheets for youngsters which explain oysters and their role in the environment. The team plans to use all these elements at various festivals in the area this summer. In April, they participated in the Earth Day/Bay Day festival at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi as well as at a children's festival. The students are excited about the opportunity to share information about the importance of oysters with the general public.

Vancouver Aquarium

In 2009, the Vancouver Aquarium opened its latest exhibit: *Canada's Arctic*. This exhibit advances the Aquarium's role as a global leader in connecting people to nature. Canada's Arctic is about linking people with the North and the many issues – environmental, social, political, economic and cultural – that are both affecting it and are affected by it.

This year, British Columbia is celebrating science with a year full of events, from speaker series to challenging science activities for people of all ages. Efforts are directed at igniting interest and increasing awareness of the importance of science. As an active partner of the

Year of Science initiative, the Vancouver Aquarium is committed to stimulating dialogue, sharing knowledge and educating the public about aquatic life. As an extension of this exhibit and as part of the Year of Science, the Vancouver Aquarium is bringing together leaders from three Aboriginal groups from across Canada for a thought-provoking discussion. Through traditional stories, personal observations, and interpretation, speakers from three Aboriginal groups--Squamish, Lil'wat, and Inuit--share their perspective on climate change and how it has affected their native land and culture. The idea behind this event exploring aboriginal perspectives on climate change is to build meaningful relationships that offer valuable insights and motivate all of us to act and be part of the solution to climate change. To learn more about Vancouver Aquarium conservation initiatives, please visit www.vanaqua.org.

Waikiki Aquarium

In February, students from Assets School in Honolulu attended Coastal America's 3rd National Student Summit where they presented their action plan to teach fresh water conservation to elementary school students in Hawaii. Among the many highlights on this trip-of-a-lifetime, the boys would like to note that they *really* enjoyed the giant squid at the Smithsonian.

On the Hawaiian lunar calendar, one day at the start of May, when the sun sets into the crown of Pu'u Kapolei on a distant headland, officially marks the change from Ho'olilo (the wet season) to Kauwela (the warm-dry season). For the past 6 years, the Waikiki Aquarium has held a "Seasons and the Sea" event that recognizes and informs about this change. This year, the event took place on Monday, May 2, 2011 from 2 to 7pm, and featured traditional Hawaiian crafts during the afternoon, followed by a sunset observance. The latter program

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included traditional Hawaiian chant, hula and storytelling, with translations and explanations of the origins and ecological implications of these activities.

On July 2, 2011, the Waikiki Aquarium will open a new 4,400 gallon exhibit showcasing unique marine life from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, also known as the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. This remote chain of islands, the second largest marine protected area in the world, is one of the last pristine reef habitats and home to a riot of marine biodiversity that includes many endemic species. Also this summer, the Waikiki Aquarium will continue its research on the brachiopod *Lingula reevii*, one of four species of concern in Hawaii, according to NOAA. This 'living fossil' is believed to occur in only one sandy bay on Oahu, and nowhere else in the world! The aquarium has been awarded a grant to remove invasive marine algae from the living reef at the back of the Aquarium, with a view towards ultimately restoring this area to something approaching its natural state. Collaborators in this project include the Botany Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the Honolulu Zoo, which will utilize the removed algae in their in-house composting program. Lastly, they are developing a NOAA-funded hands-on field program "WATER" (Waikiki Aquarium Tidal Exploration and Research) for 4th to 8th grade students.

Exploring Inner Space: Linking Aquariums with Ocean Scientists

Through a unique NOAA funded initiative, the University of Rhode Island's Inner Space Center (ISC) has developed state of the art technology capable of delivering ocean science content and streams of data, video, and audio material from research vessels to two partner aquariums, Connecticut's Mystic Aquarium and South Carolina Aquarium. A major project goal is to use telepresence technology to introduce people to the exciting world of ocean exploration, both through live and pre-produced programming. Telepresence will be used to deliver content from ships, which arrives via satellite to the ISC and to the aquariums. Through both interpreter-led programs, using newly designed "Interpretive Command Stations" and enhanced Ocean Today kiosks, students, teachers, and the public will have a bird's eye view of undersea exploration. A content development team comprised of ocean science educators and scientists from NOAA, the University of Rhode Island, the National Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence Network, Mystic Aquarium, and South Carolina Aquarium has worked with the software and video production teams to develop content for the command stations and kiosks. Both aquariums will be using the new systems with their audiences in summer 2011. For more information, please visit <http://isc.gso.uri.edu>.



Hawaiian Monk Seal at Waikiki Aquarium.



Dive show, Canada Pacific Exhibit, Vancouver Aquarium.



Orcas activity center at Seattle Aquarium.

Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) Updates

The National CWRP Management Committee provided financial support for the National Student Summit held in Washington, DC in February, 2011. Individual committee members AECOM, API, Battelle, and PSEG provided additional financial assistance for student activities during the Summit. The committee is also providing monetary support for Coastal America-related activities associated with the Coastal Zone 2011 Conference this July in Chicago.

The National CWRP is presently in discussion with the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to identify and recruit corporate support for the NRCS monitoring program for the Upper Mississippi River Basin. This program involves long-term monitoring of agricultural run-off from fifteen watersheds in six states.

California

The Cargill Corporation, a CWRP member, is working with the California Natural Resources Agency to arrange for a presentation of an underwater video equipment system to the three West Coast states in support of the Administration's new National Ocean Policy, in particular its coastal marine spatial planning requirements. The California CWRP originally purchased two underwater video camera systems to be shared among the west coast states. Cargill approved the purchase of a third underwater video camera system set to fully support all three west coast states.

Connecticut

The Connecticut CWRP chapter continues the partnership's focus on restoration projects. The chapter received four outstanding applications for funding in the fall of 2010. A review team selected the Nature Conservancy's dam removal project on the Eight Mile

River for funding. The project includes removal of the dam on Ed's Bill Pond to further efforts to restore diadromous species to the project area. The area includes a protected watershed and a federally designated wild and scenic river.

To ensure that they continue to receive high quality applicants for future funding, the chapter plans to publicize events and works of the Connecticut CWRP. On January 13, members attended a photo session with [then] Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Amey Marrella to bring attention to the underwater video camera system equipment recently donated by CWRP. Ruth Calabrese of Northeast Utilities presented the camera system, which is one of two that will be shared with the other New England coastal states, as directed by the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC).



Connecticut CWRP presents underwater video camera system.

Georgia

During a Southeast Regional Implementation Team (SERIT) meeting in Atlanta on March 23, CH2M Hill presented a CWRP-funded underwater video camera system to the Georgia Aquarium. CH2M Hill has also been actively participating in the SERIT search for a new project to sponsor

in the region. Several candidates were proposed at the March meeting, and the SERIT hopes to select a project at its next meeting. The Georgia CWRP also has been searching for a new project to sponsor in the northern Georgia area, and has received information from United States Fish and Wildlife Service on a possibility.

Hawaii

AECOM, Covanta Energy Corporation, EA Engineering, Science & Technology (EA EST) and Schnitzer Steel Industries have volunteered to work with NOAA's Honolulu office to explore the start-up of the Hawaiian Islands CWRP chapter. AECOM is treasurer of the National CWRP and a member in several state chapters, Covanta Energy is a member of the Massachusetts CWRP, and EA EST is co-chair of the Rhode Island CWRP.

Maine

The decade-long struggle to remove the West Winterport Dam came to a successful conclusion when the dam was finally removed and the North Branch of Marsh Stream was returned to its natural, free-flowing condition. When first proposed in 2001, the dam removal project met fierce opposition from the local community and it quickly became one of the most contentious river restoration efforts in Maine. Many years later, after a lengthy legal, permitting, and public relations battle, the project finally



West Winterport Dam removal; before.

(continued on next page)

went ahead without any opposition. With the removal of the dam, sea run fish have regained access to 22 miles of free-flowing habitat in the main stem of the North Branch of Marsh Stream, plus an additional 63 miles of tributaries above the site of the dam. Marsh Stream offers spawning and nursery habitat for a number of anadromous fish species, including Atlantic salmon, sea run brook trout, alewives, blueback herring, sea lamprey, and American shad, as well as adult habitat for the catadromous American eel.



West Winterport Dam removal; after.

Key funding for the project was provided by the NOAA Restoration Center through its partnerships with the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Conservation Law Foundation, Restore America's Estuaries and American Rivers. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Maine Field Office and Coastal Program Office also provided funding, as did the Maine CWRP, the Nature Conservancy and others.

Maryland

The Maryland CWRP has been meeting with the National Aquarium in Baltimore to develop a strategy to associate hands-on educational opportunities with all restoration projects that the CWRP supports. The intent is to support involvement of volunteers in CWRP-related projects, as was done, for example at the Hail Cove Project at the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland. Many partners contributed to the success of that effort, including volunteers who helped to reestablish oyster habitat and planted marsh grasses.

The first use of the underwater video camera system that was donated by CWRP is a benthic habitat mapping project being conducted by Maryland Department of Natural Resources in the nearshore waters off Fenwick and Assateague Islands in May and June.

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) works closely with the Massachusetts CWRP and Coastal America to support ecological restoration projects, ranging from dam removals to culvert replacements and other fresh and salt water aquatic habitat restoration initiatives. DER has over 70 active restoration projects throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, many needing private support to help leverage federal and state dollars.

In cooperation with the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, the Massachusetts CWRP has given financial support to several projects including:

- Cranberry Lane, a 5 acre salt marsh restoration located in Chatham, Cape Cod, MA,
- Mill River, a 5 acre intertidal mudflat marsh area in Gloucester, MA,
- Thunder Brook Dam removal, a project to restore connectivity to high quality cold water stream in the Hoosic watershed. Eastern brook trout and longnose sucker will be the prime beneficiaries of the dam removal.



Briggsville Dam removal; before.



Briggsville Dam removal; after.

- Briggsville Dam removal, located in North Adams, MA. This project will also restore connectivity to high quality cold water stream in the Hoosic watershed. As with the Thunder Brook Dam removal, Eastern brook trout and longnose sucker will be the prime beneficiaries of the dam removal.

Furthermore, the Massachusetts CWRP, the first state chapter in the nation, celebrated its 10th anniversary with a luncheon on June 10, 2011. All chapter members were invited along with federal, state, and local dignitaries.

New Hampshire

R.B. Laurence of Stantec, Inc. presented one CWRP-donated underwater video camera system to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Protection in January. This is the second underwater video camera system that will be shared with other New England coastal states. This gift is intended to support the Northeast Regional Ocean Council's marine spatial planning efforts.

New Jersey

The New Jersey CWRP accomplished final development for the imminent launch of a website for the chapter with an important "How to Apply for Project Funding" feature. Additionally, a companion brochure that will be available electronically is nearing completion. The launch of the site will add a second CWRP website; (New York CWRP has the other) to support CWRP activities in the Mid-Atlantic.

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It is anticipated that CWRP member companies which have a Corporate Work Day Program can use the site to provide volunteer support for projects implemented by the chapter.

The New Jersey CWRP successfully recruited new membership, welcoming the Merck company. This newest partner hosted the February chapter meeting at their world headquarters in Whitehouse Station, NJ. The office building is in a unique woodland setting, where resident tree species were carefully moved during construction and then returned to the site, reflecting Merck's commitment to environmental values.

Of special note, the New Jersey chapter continues its commitment to project development with three undertakings. The Cadwalader Park Ecological Restoration in Trenton, NJ will restore a 100 year old, 5 acre, former animal enclosure to its natural state, to improve the quality of water entering the Delaware River and to reestablish native plant communities. Upon completion, it will provide open space and hands-on environmental education opportunities in a highly urbanized area. Also nearing completion is a wetland and riparian restoration effort at the New Jersey Audubon Society's Wattles Stewardship



Vernal pool, part of restoration effort, Wattles Stewardship Center.

Center in Warren County, New Jersey. This project will restore a wetland and improve riparian habitat associated with a Category-1 Trout production tributary of the Musconetcong River. The Riegelsville Dam Removal Project is expected to begin by early summer. Located on the Lower Musconetcong River, in Warren and Hunterdon

Counties, New Jersey, it is the lowest partial blockage on the river and its removal would provide access to 1.5 miles of historic river herring spawning grounds and nursery habitat. The US Fish and Wildlife Service, which is the federal lead for the project, is in the midst of securing New Jersey Department of Environmental Production permits. As soon as those are completed, initiation of construction is expected to proceed. The NJCWRP is one of the funding partners for this project.

New York

The New York CWRP is rebounding after a year-long transition in management. A new acting Chair and an enthusiastic and energetic Board are looking forward to increasing membership and increasing funds available for local projects. New members were solicited at the New York State Wetlands Forum meeting and conference, April 2011 in Lake Placid. The chapter is looking for new members in the New York City district, to increase funds and support downstate projects. In December, 2010, the New York chapter was part of the Peconic River Fishway Partnership team that enabled the restoration of diadromous



Peconic River Fishway.

fish access in the Peconic River. By constructing a rock ramp on the south spillway, alewife and American eels will ultimately return to their historic habitat and spawning areas on the Peconic River. This project will be presented with the Coastal America Partnership Award, for outstanding efforts to restore and protect the coastal environment. The ceremony will take place on June 29th onsite in Riverhead, NY and all are welcome! The

chapter also provided financial support for the purchase of tools and materials for the removal of over 120 cubic yards of invasive weeds from the river.

Inspired by a MARIT South Maryland CWRP recruitment publication, MARIT North EPA staff collaborated with the New York CWRP chapter to put together a similar booklet, entitled the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership New York Chapter: Restoring Wetlands and Aquatic Habitats. This publication (created in-house with desktop publishing software) will be distributed at public events and posted on the website to provide a quick introduction to the Corporate Partnership, its relationship to Coastal America, New York chapter contact information, and examples of great projects supported by the members across the State of New York.

Rhode Island

While the Rhode Island CWRP had scaled back activities for the previous two years, the chapter has been reinvigorated by new members. EA Engineering Science & Technology, Vice-Chair of the Rhode Island CWRP Advisory Board reports that a financial contribution towards an important stormwater pilot project being administered by the City of Providence and the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program will help re-establish the Chapter's mission of providing contributions towards the restoration of Rhode Island's wetland and estuarine communities. Formal announcement of the pilot project will be made in the coming months.

Virginia

Under the leadership of Dominion Resources, the Virginia CWRP will meet in June, 2011 to formally organize an advisory board, begin the development of a process to review and approve restoration projects throughout Virginia, and to identify local nongovernmental organizations that should be invited to join the Virginia CWRP chapter.

Regional Implementation Team Updates

Northeast Regional Implementation Team (NERIT)

NERIT coordinated the identification of important ecological restoration projects throughout New England that align with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) Ecosystem Health Subcommittee goals. The team especially sought projects incorporating at least two of Coastal America's tools (i.e., CWRP, RITs 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 ones lead by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration are highlighted below. Corporate partners in each coastal state have come through with funding cost shares for environmental education projects, dam removals, restoration of anadromous fisheries passage and salt marsh education and restoration projects. Several new projects are being evaluated to provide training opportunities for the military while also accomplishing important habitat work.

The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) is working closely with Massachusetts CWRP and Coastal America to support ecological restoration projects ranging from dam removals to culvert replacements and other fresh and salt water aquatic habitat restoration initiatives. DER has over 70 active restoration projects throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, many needing private support to help leverage federal and state dollars.

The Cape Cod Conservation District (CCCD) is playing a direct role in implementing Phase 1 of the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration

Project (CCWRRP) and is leading the planning for subsequent project implementation phases. Through cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's NRCS for funding, the CCCD has established and staffed a project office adjacent to the NRCS Hyannis Field Office. Conservation district staff now include a coastal wetland restoration specialist, an anadromous fish restoration specialist, a part time project administrator and a part time administrative assistant.

The estimated \$30 million project will restore 1,500 acres of degraded salt marsh, improve fish access to 4,200 acres of spawning habitat, and improve water quality for 7,300 acres of shellfish beds over a period of 10 years. Some \$6.5 million in Recovery Act funding has allowed work to begin in 2011 on 25 of the 76 proposed sites. Short-term economic benefits are expected, as well, from the creation of construction jobs. This Phase 1 effort has established cooperative agreements with 11 Cape Cod towns, which will install 5 projects to restore natural tidal flow to restricted salt marshes, 5 projects to restore passage to upstream spawning habitat for alewife and 19 projects to improve water quality for shellfish growing areas. As work continues to meet 2011 project installation targets, it is important to note that the project office and staff are only funded through December



Degraded fish ladder, to be rebuilt as part of CWRP supported ecological restoration in MA.

31, 2011. It is therefore imperative that additional resources (federal, state, local and/or private) be secured to allow for the continuation of this productive partnership and the implementation of the next phases of the CCWRRP. Current partners include: Barnstable County Commissioners, Coastal Resources Committee; Cape Cod Conservation District; Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; all 15 towns across Cape Cod; and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Additional federal, state and local agencies are cooperating. More project information can be found at: <http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CCWRRP/index.html>.

Long Beach West in Stratford, Connecticut was a developed barrier beach. Town property was leased to the public and houses were built, establishing a seasonal community that used the site for many years. In 1996, the wooden bridge providing access to the site was destroyed in a fire. Rebuilding the bridge was too expensive for the town, so leases were revoked and the site was abandoned. Long Beach is part of one of the longest stretch of barrier beach in Connecticut; it is comprised of sand dunes, tidal wetlands, and sand flats. Long Beach and the adjacent Pleasure Beach shelter a 700 acre estuarine system including the Great Meadows



Removing berm that has split salt marsh for 100 years.

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Unit (GMU) of Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), which provides critical habitat for birds in Connecticut. Notably, Long and Pleasure Beaches together represent 20% of the undeveloped barrier beach habitat in the state and offer critical nesting habitat for federally- threatened piping plovers and state-threatened least terns. The location is an important migratory bird stopover area and is home to five state-listed plant species as well as critical shellfish beds. In October 2008, Long Beach along with Pleasure Beach and the GMU of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge was recognized as an Important Bird Area by National Audubon Society.



Long Beach West Park.

In order to restore habitat, decrease contamination, and increase public safety at this site, this project involved extensive partnering with town, state, federal, and private partners. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked with the Town of Stratford, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the Trust for Public Land, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Audubon Connecticut, Land-Tech Consultants, Inc., Ducks Unlimited, and the Fairfield County Community Foundation.

The restoration, which took place on 35 acres, was just recently completed. All structures were removed (37 cottages, 25 outbuildings, 4 docks, retaining walls, debris, and trash) as were the resulting hazardous materials, including lead, asbestos, and PCBs. A significant amount of the non-hazardous debris was recycled. This project prevented contaminants from being dispersed on

the Stewart B. McKinney NWR and surrounding environment which could easily have occurred during a large coastal storm. Habitat was improved for federally- and state-listed species and the project also improved aesthetics and safety issues at the site. The site will return to a pristine barrier beach ecosystem for wildlife and people to enjoy. This outstanding partnership project directly provided protection and enhancement of this important barrier beach. Additional information about this project can be found at <http://recovery.doi.gov/press/bureaus/us-fish-and-wildlife-service/barrier-beach-restoration-on-long-beach-west/>.

Recently, the 80 acre Broad Meadow Salt Marsh Restoration project found their local match short of \$300K. Intensive efforts are underway by the NERIT to obtain the match and ensure that project construction is completed. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federal funds are in hand, but without the local match, the construction will end and the site will not be restored. The inability to direct non-federal funds to these projects will seriously impact our environment; CWRP and the Coastal America Foundation are searching intensively to prevent the shortfall.

New England state chapters of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership are in the process of reorganizing, partly as a result of personnel changing jobs, but are looking forward to an increasing economic prosperity enhancing corporate donations. Support continues for large projects, including restorations in Herring River and Penobscot River. The team anticipates working successfully with all the New England state chapters to match funding and in-kind services to important education and restoration efforts.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Implementation Team (MARIT)

The Mid-Atlantic regional team has been busy this winter and spring. The highlight has been the development,

submission and approval of an application for the New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences and Adventure Aquarium (NJAAS/AAQ) to become the 24th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC). A review team, led by MARIT Co-Chair Mario Del Vicario of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2, conducted a site assessment on January 21, 2011. Team members included Dan Montella, EPA Region 2, Gene Cope from NOAA and Ms. Beth Brandreth of the USACE.



Adventure Aquarium visitor interaction with resident.

The team forwarded a unanimous recommendation to the Coastal America national coordinating office that the NJAAS/AAQ be designated a CELC. With 200,000 square feet of public space, over 2 million gallons of water and 431 species in the collection, it is a premier facility.

In a collaborative effort, MARIT EPA staff and the New York CWRP chapter produced an informative introductory booklet for wetlands restoration partnerships. The New Jersey CWRP also produced a useful brochure and will soon launch a website on funding restoration projects. Both efforts are described in greater detail on p. 12-13 of this newsletter.

Project recognition at the national partnership level occupied much of the team's energy with awards ceremony planning for the Lower Cape May Meadows Ecosystem Restoration Project, Cape May, NJ (on April 15, 2011) and

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the upcoming Peconic River Fishway near Riverhead, NY. The Cape May project includes a unique integration of shallow ponds, a dune complex and inland site hydrological manipulations that provides protection and support to freshwater habitats, alternative feeding habitats for piping plovers and other beach-nesting birds and hydrologic connections. In New York, creation of the Peconic Fishway is reopening historic alewife spawning areas in the upstream Peconic River.



Completed Fishway at South Spillway of Grangebel Park Dam.

Southeast Regional Implementation Team (SERIT)

The SERIT membership met on March 23 at the Georgia Aquarium. The primary focus of this meeting was to provide an update on the National Ocean Policy (presented by David Batson, Deputy Director of Coastal America) and the South Atlantic Alliance (presented by Rick DeVoe, Executive Director, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium), as well as to review an existing spread sheet of potential projects (presented by David Thomas, CH2MHill). Cynthia Bohn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) offered an update on the Treasure Cove Partnership Award in Florida, and the underwater video camera system was presented to the Georgia Aquarium by the CWRP. SERIT also gave an appreciation plaque (thanks to CH2MHill) to Bruce Carlson, Chief Science Officer for the Georgia Aquarium, who is retiring to the shores

of Hawaii. Bruce has been a great Coastal America partner in the Southeast, and he will be missed.

Alaska Regional Implementation Team (AKRIT)

The AKRIT held its annual Regional Principals meeting in February 2011 in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment. The partners approved



Rusting fishing vessel in fur seal breeding habitat.

a new five-year strategic plan to guide future AKRIT activities. The partners also discussed progress on various AKRIT-endorsed projects. For example, through the National Oceanic and



Process of removing rusting vessel.

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service, AKRIT was able to secure funds and organize a project to remove an old fishing vessel wreck from fur seal breeding habitat on St. Paul Island, in the Bering Sea. Other endorsed projects include restoring streams for fish habitat, remediating

the impacts of coastal erosion, removing marine debris, and mapping shoreline conditions, through the award winning ShoreZone project.

Pacific Islands Regional Implementation Team (PIRIT)

The PIRIT is currently focusing on continued exploration into the TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) world, as it prepares to present at the 2011 Coastal Zone Conference this July in Chicago, Illinois. In collaboration with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, PIRIT will be discussing the issues associated with "Planning for Sustainability in Indigenous Native Communities."

This presentation is largely built upon the discussions and outcomes that emerged from the 2009 TEK Summit, held in Waimea, Kauai. Central to the exchanges between the elders was the concern over the devaluation of TEK in contemporary society, including the scientific community, and government resource managers and its effect on the future of a community's resilience in sustaining their traditional and customary practices. The consensus was that the perceptions of non-native people tended to set a course for assimilation of indigenous cultures rather than the incorporation of traditional values in planning for and adapting to change.

The cross-cultural exchange and the ideas and energy that flowed from the gathering is the basis for elevating the concerns of the indigenous native community to the next level; i.e., "How do you meaningfully incorporate the interests of these communities into the process for developing community preparedness and response plans?" The conference presentation will touch upon defining the kinds of events that impact these communities and the factors that historically have rendered them invisible to the public's radar.



Piping Plovers, a Federally designated Threatened species, use New England beaches for their nests.

Coastal America Partnership Award Ceremonies

Since 1997, the Coastal America Awards Program has recognized outstanding collaborative projects and excellence in leadership for protecting, preserving and restoring the nation's coastal resources. This year's many nominations were carefully reviewed by an interagency committee and approved by political leadership representing the Obama Administration. Selection criteria require that successful projects include at least one federal agency partner as well as one non-federal entity, clearly demonstrate the "value added" of the partnership effort, reflect an innovative or unique way of accomplishing stated goals and objectives with positive environmental results, and contribute to the accomplishment of Coastal America's objectives to restore and protect resources and to increase public awareness of the coastal and marine environment. Congratulations to the 2010 Award winners!

Partnership Awards

- Peconic River Fishway Partnership, Riverhead, NY
- Lower Cape May Meadows – Cape May Point, Ecosystem Restoration Project, Cape May, NJ
- Treasure Coast Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Partnership, Southern FL
- Eel River Headwaters Restoration Partnership, Plymouth, MA
- Nisqually Estuary Restoration Team, Seattle, WA
- Card Sound Road Environmental Restoration Team, Miami, FL

2010 Special Recognition Awards

- Maryland Port Administration – Harbor Development, Baltimore, MD
- Replant South Mississippi – Ocean Springs, MS

Cape May, NJ

On April 15, 2011, Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works presented an award to the partners responsible for helping restore one of the most important migratory bird stopovers in the world for raptors, shorebirds, songbirds and waterfowl. The site of the project is also an important breeding area



Cape May awardees with Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy.

for species both rare and common. The Lower Cape May Meadows-Cape May Point project area is an internationally significant coastal freshwater wetland area situated along the Atlantic flyway, considered to be one of the foremost avian viewing areas in North America. Estimates indicate that 60,000 raptors and more than a million seabirds migrate through this area each year. The project has been supported by Coastal America for the last 15 years. The purpose of the project was to restore eroded beachfront and wetlands that were severely degraded through saltwater intrusion by managing invasive species and restoring the site's hydrology.

Award recipients include The Nature Conservancy, New Jersey Chapter; Cape May Point State Park; Borough of Cape May Point; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Non-Game Species Program; New Jersey DEP, Bureau of Coastal Engineering and the US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District.

Treasure Coast, FL

On March 3, 2011, Eileen Sobeck, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of Interior presented an award to the Treasure Coast Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Partnership for their efforts to address the threats of invasive species to native ecosystems.



Field trip to dune restoration at Treasure Coast, FL.

Invasive plants displace natives, degrade or eliminate habitat for native wildlife and often negatively affect recreation, fire frequency, soil properties and species diversity. More than a dozen active partners have provided technical expertise and coordination for on-the-ground habitat restoration of beach dune systems in Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties on Florida's east coast.



Treasure Coast Awardees with Deputy Assistant Secretary Eileen Sobeck.

Award recipients include the Fish and Wildlife Service, the above-mentioned 4 counties, The Nature Conservancy, the Florida Park Service, the Treasure Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council and the University of Florida.

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Masonville Cove, MD

On February 23, 2011, Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army of Civil Works, presented a special recognition award to the Maryland Port



Masonville Award ceremony.

Administration, Harbor Development Office for creation of the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center (MCEEC) and trails system. Conceived with community input and designed specifically to improve community access to Masonville Cove and to improve recreation and environmental educational opportunities in the Brooklyn-Curtis Bay area, the education center is a “near net zero energy building.” The proactive protection of the important part of the Chesapeake Bay is



Assistant Secretary Darcy talking to children at Environmental Education Center.

a striking example of an environmental success resulting from the identification of a critical community need and the development of key partnerships to heed that call.



Coastal America National Coordinating Office

Maggy Hunter, CELC Coordinator has moved on from Coastal America. We wish Maggy the best of luck and look forward to working with her in her new position as Outreach Manager for the Smithsonian Institution’s Ocean Portal.

We are excited to welcome Maggy’s replacement, Arturo Herrera, as our new Learning Center Coordinator. Arturo was most recently the Education Programs Coordinator for the Ecological Society of America, where he was responsible for developing their digital database on ecological educational materials and supporting their general education efforts. He has an educational background in both computer systems and biodiversity

and conservation. Arturo has done field work on several projects on endangered marine turtles, both in the US and in Central America. He is especially interested in the role technology has to play in science and environmental education and how to integrate these fields for educators, students, researchers and the public.

We are also pleased to welcome Ellen Gordon as our new Editor/Writer. Ellen has extensive experience writing articles and producing newsletters and other informational publications for the marine community. She worked in coastal management for many years, as well as with NOAA’s Office of Education and with nongovernmental organizations.

Call for Nominations

The Coastal America Awards Program, established in 1997, recognizes outstanding efforts and excellence in leadership for protecting, preserving and restoring the nation’s coastal resources and ecosystems. Please help us recognize these worthy projects by nominating a team from your region today! Nomination and background information is available on the Coastal America website, www.coastalamerica.gov.

Nominations for the 2011 season are due August 1, 2011.

Partnership Awards

recognize outstanding Coastal America partnership efforts and/or multi-agency projects.

Spirit Awards

recognize outstanding partnership efforts that demonstrate the “spirit” of Coastal America.

Special Recognition Awards

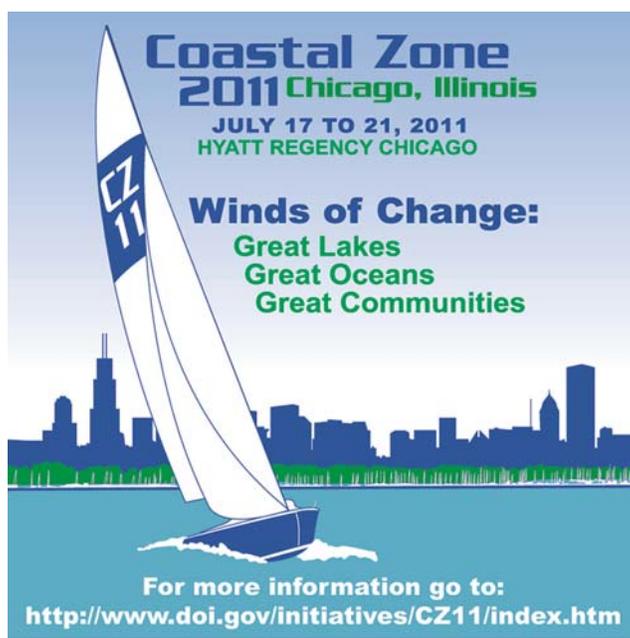
recognize non-federal organizations for their demonstrated leadership in establishing partnerships.

Coastal Zone 2011

The Coastal Zone 2011 Conference (CZ11) will be held in Chicago, Illinois from July 17-21, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. The theme of the conference is “Winds of Change: Great Lakes, Great Oceans and Great Communities.” Coastal America has much planned for this CZ conference, as we celebrate some milestones. The Coastal America federal initiative to restore and protect our nation’s coastal resources was announced by then-President H.W. Bush twenty years ago at Coastal Zone 1991. Five years later, in the spring of 1996, the Coastal America Principals approved establishment of a formal Partnership with regionally-based non-federal organizations such as aquariums to promote public awareness of coastal and marine issues and increase involvement in coastal restoration and protection efforts. The New England Aquarium was designated the first Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) in September 1996. Today, with 23 formally designated learning centers—21 in the U.S., plus 1 in Mexico and 1 in Canada—working together to educate and inspire the

public, the CELC Network continues its unparalleled tradition of working in concert with Federal partners.

CZ11 is the perfect place to recognize Coastal America’s 20th Anniversary and the 15th Anniversary of the Learning Center Network. In addition, this is a valuable opportunity to highlight the many successes of the Corporate Partnership (CWRP). To celebrate these accomplishments, Coastal America will be hosting multiple activities and events and sponsoring panel sessions. Partnership efforts will also be highlighted at a Public Day and a special CZ11 evening reception at the Shedd Aquarium on Wednesday, July 20. In addition to the exceptional exhibits at the Aquarium, there will be educational activities focused on network-wide efforts such as the Ocean Today Kiosks, the Student Summit, and other recent initiatives. The evening reception will provide an opportunity to showcase the successes of the Coastal America Partnership, including the Corporate Partnership and the Learning Center Network. (For more information, please see text box of activities).



Coastal America at CZ11

SUNDAY, JULY 17

- Training Session (1:00pm–5:00pm) – Collaborative Leadership: Effectively Engaging the Public in Decisions that Affect Coastal Communities

MONDAY, JULY 18

- CZ 11 Conference Opens – (6:00pm –8:00pm) – Informal Get-Together at Welcome Reception.

TUESDAY, JULY 19

- CZ11 CWRP Session (2:45pm–4:00pm) – The Power of Private/Public Partnership to Achieve Coastal Restoration & Protection Goals: The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

- CELC Working Session (8:00am–12:00pm) Shedd Aquarium Executive Conference Room
- CZ11 CELC Session (1:00pm–2:15pm) – Aquariums & Federal Agencies Working Together to Improve Ocean Literacy and Advance Coastal Stewardship: The Coastal America Learning Center Network
- Public Day at the Shedd Aquarium (9:00am–6:00pm)
- CZ 2011 Evening Reception at the Shedd Aquarium (7:00pm–10:00pm)

THURSDAY, JULY 21

- CZ11 Coastal America 20th Session (9:00am–10:00am) – Coastal America: Twenty Years of Creating Partnerships and Building Tools for Tomorrow
- CWRP Working Session (3:00pm–5:30pm)
- Partnership Evening Reception/Dinner (6:00pm–8:00pm)

FRIDAY, JULY 22

- Coastal America Partnership Meeting (8:00am–12:30pm) – Mobilizing the Coastal America Partnership Tools to Support the National Ocean Policy Strategic Action Plans

National Ocean Art Contest

The Coastal America partnership held its first Ocean Art Contest in the fall of 2008. The contest drew over 2,000 student entries from 15 Learning Centers (CELCs) in the United States and one in Mexico. Twenty national winners had their artwork displayed at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and were invited to Washington, DC, for an awards ceremony that recognized their accomplishments. In the fall of 2011, Coastal America CELCs will again be holding regional art contests, which will culminate in a national contest in 2012. Be sure to check the Coastal America website www.coastalamerica.gov later this summer for more information.

Regional Chairs/Contacts

NORTHEAST

William Hubbard978-318-8552
william.a.hubbard@usace.army.mil

MID-ATLANTIC

Tai-Ming Chang215-814-2761
Chang.Tai-Ming@epamail.epa.gov

Mario DelVicario212-637-3779
delvicario.mario@epa.gov

Jennifer Greiner410-267-5783
Greiner.jennifer@epa.gov

Roselle Henn917-790-8620
roselle.e.henn@usace.army.mil

SOUTHEAST

Jim Giattina404-562-9470
giattina.jim@epa.gov

Drew Kendall404-562-9354
Kendall.drew@epa.gov

GULF OF MEXICO

Bob Bosenberg504-862-2522
robert.h.bosenberg@mvn02.usace.army.mil

John Bowie228-688-3888
bowie.john@epa.gov

Bryon Griffith228-688-1172
griffith.bryon@epa.gov

SOUTHWEST

Pat Rutten707-575-6059
patrick.rutten@noaa.gov

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Kelvin Char808-944-2213
Kelvin.char@noaa.gov

NORTHWEST

Mark Brown503-375-5686
mark_brown@or.blm.gov

Rick Parkin206-553-8574
Parkin.Richard@epa.gov

ALASKA

Douglas Mutter907-271-5011
Douglas_Mutter@ios.doi.gov

John Kurland907-586-7638
jon.kurland@noaa.gov

GREAT LAKES/UPPER MISSISSIPPI

John Perrecone312-353-1149
Perrecone.John@epa.gov

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*

Ellen Gordon, Editor/Writer

Arturo Herrera, CELC Coordinator

Gwendolyn Archer-Pailen, Office Manager

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