



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

Volume 13 • Number 4 • WINTER 2001

“My administration strongly supports efforts like yours that bring together diverse participants to...achieve goals and address our challenging environmental and economic needs. I am grateful for your personal commitment and leadership in meeting these objectives.”

- From President George W. Bush letter to East Machias Team

President Bush Attends East Machias Partnership Award Ceremony

The East Machias Dam Removal Team received a Partnership Award for their work in bringing together various partners to remove an abandoned dam in East Machias, Maine. The USAF worked with the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Service to remove the abandoned dam as a military training exercise. The state’s Atlantic Salmon Commission and the Town of East Machias provided local sponsorship and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership also endorsed the project. Other partners include: USACOE, USFWS, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Trout Unlimited, East Machias Watershed Council, Downeast Salmon Federation and the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District. The project resulted in the restoration of 300 stream miles of an Atlantic Salmon and anadromous fish migration corridor. In addition, numerous riparian wetlands and riverine shading features were restored. The award ceremony was held in conjunction with the Reserve Officers Association luncheon meeting in January 2002, which was also attended by President George W. Bush. Assistant Secretary of the US Air Force Nelson Gibbs presented the award to the team. After the ceremony, the President met with members of the Project Team and commended them on their development of a win-win, innovative solution for this project.



President Bush commended the East Machias Dam Removal Team at a Partnership Award ceremony in January 2002.

In This Issue:

Principals Meeting	2
Midwest Natural Resources Group Joins Partnership	2
US Commission on Ocean Policy	2
Regional Updates	3
CWRP Updates	4
Partnership Award Ceremonies	5-7
CELC Updates	8-9
Student Ocean Conferences	10-11
Calendar of Events	12

JANUARY PRINCIPALS MEETING

The first Principals meeting of the New Year was held on January 10, 2002 at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. This meeting welcomed a new member to the Principals Group, the US Department of State. We look forward to working with this new partner. At the previous Principals meeting, James L. Connaughton, Chairman of the CEQ, indicated that the administration is interested in exploring ways to replicate the success of Coastal America in a broader context.

This led the Principals to address two related topics. First, they agreed to grant the request of the Midwest Natural Resources Group (MNRG) to affiliate with the Coastal America partnership and to be incorporated into the structure of the Great Lakes team. This decision was made on the premise that the focus of the affiliation will specifically address watershed issues that affect the coastal environment (see story below). The Principals also discussed the possible relationship of the American Heritage Rivers

Initiative (AHRI) to the Coastal America Partnership, and subsequently, formed a subcommittee to discuss further this topic with CEQ. The Principals also received a briefing on the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center program by Dr. Jerry Schubel, New England Aquarium President (Emeritus), and approved an expanded Partnership Awards program that includes a new Coastal America Spirit Certificate of Recognition.



The January 2002 Principals meeting.

US COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy is in the process of reviewing existing ocean and coastal programs and activities around the nation as part of an 18-month study. The Commission will later make recommendations to the President and Congress for a National Ocean Policy. The Commission is holding public meetings in each region to gather information on current programs. The Commission has also been providing members to serve as expert panelists at the Student Ocean Conferences. We encourage Coastal America teams to be involved in the process leading to the Commission's recommendations to Congress and the President by participating in your region's public meeting. The schedule of meetings is available at: <http://www.oceancommission.gov/calendar/welcome.html>.

MIDWEST NATURAL RESOURCES GROUP JOINS PARTNERSHIP

In January, the Coastal America Principals approved the request of the Midwest Natural Resources Group to affiliate with the Coastal America partnership. This decision was made in recognition of the impact that activities in the Upper Mississippi River watershed have on the coastal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (e.g. Hypoxia). The Principals agreed that the Great Lakes Team should

be restructured to include the Upper Mississippi and the states of Missouri and Iowa. The MNRG will serve as the official Regional Principals Group for the region. The Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA agreed to co-chair the Regional Implementation Team. Owen Dutt, the River Navigator for the Upper Mississippi River, will serve as the initial point of contact.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Northeast

Members of the NERIT recently met for a daylong session concentrating on several themes. The team discussed the direction for the next decade and formed a sub-committee to define a forward-looking strategy. It was identified that there is a need to create a menu that the team members can use to inform communities of the tools and programs available through the Coastal America partnership. Also reviewed was the need to provide viable projects that the military can support through weekend/annual training and Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) exercises. The changes in personnel at various agencies were discussed and a new sub-committee for Education and Outreach was formed.

Southeast

On February 15, 2002, local federal agency representatives, led by Chris Smith (the SERIT representative from National Marine Fisheries Service), met with staff members of the International Game Fish Association's (IGFA) Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum. The purpose of the meeting at the IGFA facility in Dania Beach, Florida, was to begin the formation of a local team of federal agency representatives to work directly in partnership with the designated Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) on a variety of public education and outreach initiatives. The initial meeting was a great success. The follow up actions of this emerging local support team should lead to a much stronger and more effective working relationship between the agencies and the IGFA facility in the interest of public education and outreach on coastal and marine resource issues.

The SERIT met on March 19, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia. The SERIT meeting focused on: (1) strengthening the CELC support network in the Southeast; (2) improving communication and networking with the military services in pursuit of innovative readiness training opportunities to restore and protect coastal habitats, (3) pursuing effective public/private partnership opportunities for coastal resources, and (4) coordination, review, and endorsement of proposed and/or ongoing projects.

On March 26, 2002, a Coastal America Partnership Award for the Charleston Air Force Base Artificial Reef Project was presented at the National Defense Industries Association's 28th Environmental Symposium and Exhibition in Charleston, South Carolina. Mr. Raymond F. DuBois, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, presented the award to the project team, and numerous other officials from the military services participated. Team members from several agencies worked closely together to remove clean concrete debris resulting from a demolition

project on Charleston Air Force Base and relocate the material to a state-approved offshore site to establish an artificial reef. This outstanding environmental project also provided significant military training benefits to the South Carolina National Guard.

Gulf of Mexico

Several staff members of the Gulf of Mexico Program Office (GMPO), which is the administrative support component of the GMRIT, spent January and February of this year attending the project solicitation meetings hosted by the five Gulf States that comprise the region. These annual state-hosted meetings are the way the Gulf of Mexico Program and the GMRIT identify projects that may be funded and implemented. The three Gulf CELCs also participate. The first round of screening has been completed and several projects with Coastal America potential remain viable for the 2003 cycle.

The co-chair of the Gulf of Mexico Program's Policy Review Board and EPA's Regional Administrator in Atlanta, Jimmy Palmer, provided testimony to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy on March 7 and 8. Mr. Palmer's remarks spoke to the relevance and capabilities of the GMP to address issues with regional and national implications. Jim Giattina and Bryon Griffith, the Director and Deputy Director of the Gulf of Mexico Program joined Mr. Palmer at the meeting.

Additionally, on March 8, partners from the GMP and the GMRIT participated in a briefing to introduce the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) initiative to some central Gulf States stakeholders and to demonstrate the commitment of the GMRIT to the LCA. The Louisiana Coastal Area initiative is intended to address Louisiana's coastal wetland losses comprehensively on a coast wide scale. The conceptual blueprint for the initiative was laid out a few years ago in Coast 2050 (<http://www.coast2050.gov/2050reports.htm>).

Regional Chairs

NORTHEAST

Bill Hubbard 978 318-8552

MID-ATLANTIC

John Wright 718 765-7062
Mario DelVicario 212 637-3781

SOUTHEAST

Dennis Barnett 404 562-5225

GULF OF MEXICO

Robert Bosenberg 504 862-2522
Bryon Griffith 228 688-1172

SOUTHWEST

Paul Michel 415 972-3417

PACIFIC ISLANDS

John Naughton 808 973-2935

NORTHWEST

Jim Reese 503 808-3862
Rosy Mazaika 503 808-6076

ALASKA

Guy McConnell 907 753-2614
Mike Roy 907 786-3925

UPPER MISSISSIPPI/ GREAT LAKES

Owen Dutt 314 331-8450



CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

National

The CWRP National Advisory Council met in January 2002 and heard updates on Coastal America, the Coastal America Foundation, the Learning Centers, and details about the state CWRP programs and projects. The NAC decided to develop a recruitment video/CD-Rom packet and to update the brochure. Meanwhile, CWRP state programs in Maine, Connecticut and Massachusetts continue to grow, and

efforts to expand to other parts of the country have proven successful. In October, Rhode Island hosted a kickoff event for their state program, which will focus on restoring degraded wetlands and fish and wildlife habitats identified by the Rhode Island Habitat Restoration Team. In Texas, Duke Energy's gas transmission group took the first step in establishing the CWRP in that region. Alaska held a kickoff event in February

of 2002, and Missouri also made a commitment to launch a CWRP program and have a kickoff event in 2002. In addition, a number of other Regional Teams have expressed interest in bringing the CWRP to their states, and members from the Gulf of Mexico, the Southeast, and the Mid-Atlantic teams have been actively working to get the CWRP started in their regions.



Corporate Partners sign a commitment letter at the Alaska CWRP Kick-off event.

Alaska: The Alaska CWRP was officially launched in February 2002. At the event, state corporate lead BP Exploration was joined by nine other companies to publicly commit to supporting and expanding the CWRP in Alaska. The new CWRP plans to support three projects in 2002: restoration of Ship Creek, support of the Student Ocean Conference at the Alaska SeaLife Center, and development of a restoration atlas for the state.

Connecticut: The Connecticut CWRP met in November to strategize about the direction of their program. They continue to identify and review potential projects. The Connecticut CWRP state advisory board will convene in early 2002.

Texas: In October, Duke Energy's gas transmission group participated in a demonstrative oyster bar restoration project in Galveston as the first step in establishing the CWRP in the state.

Massachusetts: The Neponset Marsh restoration project is moving forward and a ground-breaking ceremony was held on March 19, 2002.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO MARITIMES & NORTHEAST PIPELINE

Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, LLC, received the 2001 Special Recognition Award at a ceremony in

Wells, ME, in December 2001. Maritimes was cited for their efforts to establish the CWRP in Maine following their positive

participation in the Massachusetts CWRP. James L. Connaughton, Chairman of the CEQ and Chair of Coastal America, presented the award to Thomas O'Connor, President of Maritimes & Northeast Management Company and Patrick Hester, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline. At the ceremony, the Maine CWRP presented ceremonial checks to project managers of the nine CWRP-approved projects. Also at the ceremony, the eleven charter members of the Maine CWRP were recognized for their support of the effort and received a certificate of recognition signed by Mr. Connaughton and Governor Angus King.



The Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline folks and ME CWRP are recognized by James L. Connaughton.

PARTNERSHIP AWARD CEREMONIES

Maine Coastal Wetland Restoration Partnership Team

On December 6, 2001, the Maine Coastal Wetlands Restoration Partnership Team received the 2000 Partnership Award for their outstanding efforts to help revitalize Maine's wetlands, salt marshes and other aquatic habitats. James L. Connaughton, Chairman of the CEQ and Chair of Coastal America, presented the awards at a ceremony held at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in Wells, Maine. The Maine Coastal Wetlands Restoration Partnership developed a model restoration process that utilizes a voluntary accomplishment-driven, ecosystem-based approach to implementing coastal wetland restoration projects on public and private lands. The partnership has successfully restored 150 acres on the Ralph Waldo Tyler State Wildlife Management Area (by re-establishing a natural interspersed of salt hay and permanent panne habitat), and an additional 100 acres of coastal wetland managed by the Rachel Carson National



The Maine team received award plaques in December 2001, recognizing their wetlands restoration efforts.

Wildlife Refuge. The team members include: the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Maine Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Army Corps of Engineers,

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Audubon, SWAMP, Inc, Friends of Scarborough Marsh, Bates College, and the Maine CWRP.

San Diego Bay Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan & Habitat Enhancement Team

An award ceremony was held on December 13, 2001, in conjunction with the Navy's Natural Resources Management Conference to recognize the San Diego Bay Integrated Natural Resources Management Team and the Habitat Enhancement Team for their work in designing a cooperative management scheme for the local area and implementing restoration efforts. The San Diego Bay Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan is a long-term management strategy sponsored by two of the major managers of San Diego Bay:

the US Navy and the San Diego Unified Port District. The intent of the Plan is to provide direction and strategies for the proper stewardship of the Bay's natural resources while helping the Navy and the Port meet their respective missions within the Bay. The San Diego Habitat Enhancement Team was a cooperative effort that implemented the Plan by using clean dredge material to restore an intertidal/subtidal area. H.T. Johnson, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and the Environment presented the award. The team consisted of: U.S. Navy,

Commander Naval Region Southwest, Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game, California Coastal Commission, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, Friends of South Bay Wildlife, San Diego Unified Port District, The Environmental Trust, Zoological Society of San Diego, Tierra Data Systems and San Diego Association of Governments.



San Diego Bay Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan & Habitat Enhancement Team receiving their award in December 2001.

Galveston Island State Park Restoration Team

Through the coordination of a variety of restoration partners, the Galveston Island State Park Restoration Team created 130 acres of new inter-tidal marshes and 100 acres of seagrass beds. Their work also protected more than one square mile of shallow bay and tidal habitats and enhanced public access to nature viewing. This project, which involved federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, local property owners and other community members, is the largest wetland restoration project ever undertaken in a Texas state park. The Team has already seen substantial progress in their work; in 1999 they discovered

seagrass growth, and by 2001, nearly 100 acres of bay bottom were covered by patches of seagrass. The award was presented by Chris Kearney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Department of the Interior, on February 25, 2002 at the Texas Coastal Issues Conference in Corpus Christi. Team members included: Texas Parks and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Texas General Land Office, Reliant Energy, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Galveston Bay Foundation, Shiner, Mosely & Associates and Dredge America.

2002 Awards Program

A Call for Nominations

We are now accepting nominations for the following:

Partnership and Special Recognition Awards

**Nominations due by
April 26, 2002**

For more information contact
Sara Mirabilio at
Sarae.mirabilio@USDA.gov
or 202-401-9928

Girl Scouts Rehabilitation Station

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 760, of the Susitna Girl Scout Council in Anchorage, Alaska, partnered with the National Marine Fisheries Service, the EPA, the USFWS and the Alaska SeaLife Center (a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center) to develop a series of workshops for Girl Scouts. The workshops focus on raising awareness of critical coastal issues, such as damage to habitat from pollution and oil spills, the scientific methods being used to study these issues, career opportunities and funding issues as they relate to restoration and rehabilitation of these resources. An award ceremony for the team was held in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment in February 2002, with Dr. William Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, serving as the awarding official.



The Susitna Girl Scouts troop receives their Partnership Award for their work on the Rehabilitation Station Education Program.

Join us for the 2002 Annual Retreat All Partners Welcome!

The Northwest team will host the 2002 annual retreat in Newport, Oregon from April 22-25. The retreat is a great place to share ideas, to learn from the experience of others and to contribute to the direction of Coastal America. The focus of this year's retreat will be ***Regional & National Strategies for Enhancing Coastal America***. We hope you'll join us! For more information, see our website at <http://www.coastalamerica.gov/retreats/2002/index.html>.

*The Oregon coast,
site of the 2002 Annual Retreat.*



COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

Aquarium of the Pacific Joins the CELC Family

The ceremony designating the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, CA as the 15th Learning Center was held on December 7th with Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, serving as the designating official. As a conservation and education facility, the Aquarium works to instill a sense of wonder, respect and stewardship for the inhabitants and ecosystems of the Pacific Ocean. Through community-based beach cleanups, partnering with various organizations to get the conservation message out, organizing efforts to protect endangered and threatened species, and taking their message to the community with traveling programs and workshops, the Aquarium helps reach a wide audience. Amy Coppenger, the Aquarium's Director of Education, will serve as the contact for Coastal America. At the ceremony, Amy spoke about the significance to the Aquarium and specifically, its education program, of being designated as a CELC. The ceremony was also an opportunity for partner agencies to provide token gifts

to the aquarium and commit resources to aid in the Aquarium's education efforts. Gifts from the agencies included a Coast Live Oak from the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a symbol of their commitment to assist the Aquarium in re-establishing native plants in critical treatment areas, a historical photo of the Aquarium site from the Army Corps of Engineers and the

National Marine Fisheries Service's loan of items such as sperm whale teeth and a turtle carapace for use in the Aquarium's interpretative exhibits and activities. In addition, the Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, Coast Guard, Navy, Minerals Management Service and National Ocean Service all committed resources to enhance the aquarium's education and outreach program.



Lynn Scarlett and Warren Iliff, President of the Aquarium sign the agreement designating the Aquarium of the Pacific as a CELC.



CELC UPDATES

New England Aquarium

We are sad to say that Jerry Schubel, President of the New England Aquarium, has retired from the aquarium and the CELC family. The New England Aquarium became the first CELC in the Coastal America network under the direction of Dr. Schubel. Coastal America appreciates Dr. Schubel's longstanding participation and support. He will be missed. Good luck Jerry!

National Aquarium in Baltimore

On February 23rd, 2002, the National Aquarium played host to the Chesapeake Bay Bowl, the regional portion of the National Ocean Science Bowl. Fifteen teams of students from Maryland, Delaware, Washington, DC and southern Pennsylvania convened in Baltimore to test their knowledge on topics including: biology, chemistry, geology, physics, history, economics, navigation, technology and ocean-related current events. The winning team, Montgomery Blair High School from Silver Spring, Maryland, will progress to the national championship in Providence, Rhode Island, on April 26-29th. National prizes in the past have included scholarships, scientific equipment and books, cruises on research vessels and visits to oceanographic institutes and aquariums. The competition was preceded by a conference on February 22nd that featured a dolphin show, a behind-the-scenes tour and three

excellent speakers. NOAA Administrator, Vice Admiral Lautenbacher, Michiko J. Martin from the Department of Oceanography at the US Naval Academy and Corky Surbek from Goucher College all spoke on the educational importance of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl and of the future opportunities in marine science open to the students. Coming up for the aquarium is a restoration project at the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, on April 25-30, 2002. The Aquarium will lead a project to install native vegetation, such as smooth cordgrass and meadow hay, on a site made from dredged material. The project will contribute to the restoration of a salt marsh that is essential habitat for migratory and wintering waterfowl at the mouth of the Chester River.

IGFA

The IGFA has been working with the SERIT to create a network of local contacts from Coastal America partner agencies. The purpose of the network is to facilitate collaborative project identification and implementation throughout the Southeast region, with the CELCs serving as centers of information. The IGFA has also been busy with other activities, such as hosting a spring camp that teaches kids about marine mammals, mangroves and coral reefs. The IGFA also recently hosted the first Wetlands Naturalist Module, which lasted eight weeks. The final project to complete the

Master Naturalist module was the creation of a tailored curriculum for the IGFA wetlands. The curriculum, which was first presented October 27, 2001 to Girl Scouts earning their Water Wonders Patch, addresses the importance of wetlands.

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

The DISL has been working with student's from Auburn University to re-plant critical vegetation on a small island on the Mississippi and Alabama shoreline. Cat Island, which is inhabited only by herons and egrets, was severely damaged by hurricane Georges in 1998. Since then, the DISL project has planted 8,000 plants used by herons and egrets for nesting.

Waikiki Aquarium

The Waikiki Aquarium's Education Department recently hosted an Educator's workshop on Marine Alien Species in Hawaii. Researchers from the U.H. Botany Department and Bishop Museum's Hawaii Biological Survey introduced the identity and biological impacts of invasive species. Resource managers from the state's Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service explained the current mechanisms for protecting Hawaii's environment from exotic species. Aquarium educators are working with a top curriculum designer to translate some of this vital content into lesson plans for teachers. Funding for the workshop came from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The aquarium is also collaborating with the Division of Aquatic Resources and the volunteer-based Hawaii Reef Check to assess the feasibility of removing alien invasive algae from Hawaiian reefs. Dr. Cindy Hunter, Curator of Live Exhibits at the Waikiki Aquarium, is part of the research team. "We're conducting controlled experiments to find out how long it takes to remove these species from a set area, how fast they re-grow, exactly how they re-grow, and if herbivores, like sea urchins, can keep them grazed down," said Hunter. The study is also seeking ways to use the removed algal material for soil enhancement.



The DISL project team re-plants Cat Island.

STUDENT OCEAN CONFERENCES

Texas State Aquarium

Coastal America's fourth Student Ocean Conference was held at the Texas State Aquarium on November 29 - 30th, 2001, in Corpus Christi, Texas. During this two-day event, 100 students grappled with the concepts of multiple-use for marine sanctuaries, specifically the Flower Garden Banks sanctuary near Corpus Christi. Students were divided into groups to discuss different issues regarding multiple use, including: recreational and commercial fishing, research, oil and gas exploration, resource management, recreation, and environmental protection. Each group went on a field trip to learn more about the issue they were discussing. A new development at this conference was the attendance of a member of the US Commission on Ocean Policy, Paul Kelly from Rowan Companies, Inc. Students gave their recommendations regarding management of the sanctuary to a panel of experts, including Mr. Kelly, and he promised to bring these comments to the attention of the Commission.



Students examine fish and plankton during a field trip on an ocean research vessel during the Texas State Aquarium Student Ocean Conference.



Students at the Mystic Aquarium Student Ocean Conference discuss their topics in groups.

Mystic Aquarium

Connecticut's Mystic Aquarium hosted the fifth Student Ocean Conference on December 11, 2001. Students discussed and debated issues relating to coastal health in their region. The topics discussed included: fisheries, dam removal, habitat restoration, and wetland restoration. Dr. Robert Ballard, who is a National Geographic Society Explorer-in-Residence and the President of the aquarium's Institute for Exploration, attended the conference as a representative of the US Commission on Ocean Policy and was part of the panel of experts receiving the students' recommendations. After the conference, students were given the opportunity to take a behind the scenes tour of the aquarium, as well as to connect to a live link with a remotely operated vehicle run by the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California.

Hatfield Marine Science Center

The Student Ocean Conference, “Here Today Here Tomorrow”, was presented at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newton, Oregon, on February 22, 2002. Geared for high school teams who would be attending the National Ocean Sciences bowl the following day, the conference focused on designating a marine reserve for the state of Oregon. The goal of the conference was to provide a realistic look at the issues and guidelines for establishing a marine reserve. The keynote speaker was Robert Bailey with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, who is the leader of the Marine Reserve Committee for Oregon. Marjorie Ernst, Environmental Protection Specialist, NOAA National Marine Protected Program, provided a national perspective on marine reserves. The students were divided into groups and conducted an activity where they were challenged to select and designate a marine reserve for Oregon. Final evaluation found that 81% of participating students felt they had greatly increased their understanding of marine reserves. Fifty-four students attended the conference.



Students discuss and plan for their presentation at the Hatfield SOC.

Upcoming SOCs

The Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, AK and the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, CA will be hosting the next two Student Ocean Conferences. Each of these conferences will offer a unique activity for students to learn from, promising that they will be just as successful as the previous SOCs. The Alaska SeaLife Center will visit a marine

simulator that will be used to teach students about emergency response situations. The Monterey Bay Aquarium will host their SOC at the same time as the Remotely Operated Vehicle Competition, allowing students the opportunity to experience this valuable exploration technology first-hand.

Learning Center Contacts

ALASKA SEALIFE CENTER Amy Haddow 907 224-6300	MYSTIC AQUARIUM Aileen Soto 860 572-5955
AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC Amy Coppenger 562 951-1261	NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE Valerie Chase 410 576-3800
DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB John Dindo 334 861-2141	NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM Billy Spitzer 617 973-5200
THE FLORIDA AQUARIUM Becky Clayton 813 273-4000	NEW YORK AQUARIUM Merryl Kafka 718 265-3400
HATFIELD MARINE SCIENCE CENTER Vicki Osis 541 867-0257	SEATTLE AQUARIUM Kathy Sider 206 386-4300
IGFA FISHING HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM Gretel McCausland 954 927-2628	SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM Whit McMillan 843 579-8563
MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM Rita Bell 831 648-4800	TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM Tara Schultz 361 881-1200
	WAIKIKI AQUARIUM Carol Hopper 808 923-9741



Coastal America Office

Virginia K. Tippie, Director
Nancy A. New, Education/Outreach Coordinator
Patmarie S. Nedelka, Policy Coordinator
William Nuckols, Project Coordinator
Lina Barrera, Editor and Outreach Specialist
Sara Mirabilio, Knauss Sea Grant Fellow
Wanda Brown, Secretary

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

Calendar of Events

- Mar. 19** Neponset CWRP Groundbreaking event
- Mar. 24-26** Charleston Air Force Base Offshore Reef Partnership Award Ceremony. NDIA Conference.
- Apr. 9-10** Alaska SeaLife Center SOC
- Apr. 22-26** Coastal America Annual Retreat
- April 26** Awards Nomination Deadline
- May 10-11** Monterey Bay Aquarium SOC
- July 22-27** National Marine Educators Association annual meeting, combined with CELC national meeting.

WE ARE UPDATING OUR MAILING LIST!

**If you would like to continue receiving this publication,
please provide your current mailing information via fax or email.**

Fax: 202 401-9821

email: Linam.Barrera@usda.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: Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and The Executive Office of the President.



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

300 7th Street, SW, Suite 680
Reporters Building
Washington, DC 20250-0599
