

National Coastal Management Program News

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Indiana’s Marquette Plan Creates a Vision for the Future

In 2004, five major northwest Indiana communities joined together, with support from Indiana’s Lake Michigan Coastal Program, to create a reinvestment strategy for 21 of the 45 miles of the Lake Michigan shoreline. This strategy was originally envisioned by Indiana Congressman Peter Visclosky, who proposed reclamation of the heavily industrialized shoreline for public use in a 1985 paper entitled *The Marquette Project*.

Decades later, the first phase of the Marquette Plan is complete. The predominately industrial and urbanized cities of Portage, Gary, East Chicago, Hammond and Whiting all participated in this momentous planning effort. These communities saw an opportunity to prepare for industry’s changing landscape, and “create a livable lakefront.” The communities united around three guiding

principles: (1) 75% of the lakeshore from the Illinois state line to the eastern boundary of Portage should be open for free public use; (2) new development projects directly on the lakefront should have a minimum setback of at least 200 feet; and (3) a continuous biking and walking trail to be developed in order to connect lakefront communities. The challenge of this study was to attract new economic development, retail and job opportunities, while increasing public access to Lake Michigan and protecting valuable natural resources. The Plan identifies potential Greenspace connections, transit oriented development and industrial infrastructure consolidation. The first phase of the Marquette Plan has since received two distinguished awards: an Honor Award in Planning and Analysis from the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Burnham Award for Excellence in Planning from the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Council.



View of Lake Michigan from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, an area included in Phase II of the Marquette Plan. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

In 2007, the City of Portage was the first partner to put the Marquette Plan into action through the development of the Portage Northside Plan, which identifies residential, commercial and recreational opportunities for the northern portion of the city. The culmination of this plan was the creation of Portage's Lakefront Park, set to open in 2008. This 66-acre beachfront parcel, once owned by Midwest Steel, was purchased by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in 2004 after a site clean-up. Through a cooperative agreement, Portage will develop and maintain a city beach on National Park Service property. The site will also house an indoor pavilion and classroom for educational opportunities.

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is currently working to implement Phase II of the Marquette Plan, again with the support from the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. This planning phase addresses the portion of Indiana's shoreline from the City of Portage to the Michigan state line, an area of the coastline that is already largely in public ownership through the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and a state park; several smaller communities are also included within this planning area. The NIRPC and project partners are working to create a vision that will identify and protect greenways, identify possible watertrails in the region and address the needs of smaller communities.

The key to these plans, both Marquette Plan "Phase I" and "Phase II," is to see the region as one cohesive region united by a larger vision that leverages the collective strengths of Northwest Indiana's communities. To further promote these local planning efforts, Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program will be supporting the development of a poster depicting the Marquette Plan's vision for the entire 45 miles of Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline.

For more information about Phase II of the Marquette Plan, visit www.nirpc.org/MP2PCTP/MP2PCTP.htm or contact John Swanson at jswanson@nirpc.org.

Proposed Military Buildup in Guam

The Department of Defense (DOD) proposes to relocate U.S. Marine Corps command, air, ground, and logistics units from Okinawa, Japan to Guam. The action will fulfill the U.S. government national security and alliance requirements of increasing the strategic role of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, in order to defend critical military assets, improve mission-critical support infrastructures, and expand operational readiness and capability to accomplish its mission in the region.

The DOD personnel transfer will bring about 40,000 additional people, including their families, to the island—resulting in roughly a 20% population increase for the 212 square mile island. Approximately \$15 billion will be spent on military construction to accommodate the move.



Military installations at Sumay Cove in Guam.

While the military build up will present many opportunities for Guam, the people of Guam are concerned about the impacts of such a dramatic increase to the island's population. The Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP) is particularly concerned about potential negative impacts the military build up may have to Guam's natural resources, including its fragile coral reefs, historical and archeological sites, and pristine marine and terrestrial areas.

The GCMP has been very engaged in monitoring and responding to the build-up. The GCMP has provided comments during public scoping meetings and has been involved in numerous federal consistency determination reviews for proposed military projects including wharf and air force base expansions to ensure actions will be consistent with its coastal policies.

The GCMP is also chairing the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Civilian Military Task Force. The Governor of Guam created the Task Force in April 2006 to develop an Integrated Comprehensive Master Plan that would accommodate the expansion of military personnel, operations, and associated infrastructure while maximizing the benefits for both the civil and military communities. The Natural Resource Subcommittee is specifically focusing on Guam's natural resources to ensure direct and cumulative impacts will be minimized during the expansion.

For more information please contact Evangeline Lujan at vange@mail.gov.gu or visit: www.guamgovernor.net/content/view/645/2/.

Ohio Clean Marinas Recycling Program Saves Tons

More than 132 tons of plastic shrink wrap used to cover boats in winter would have found its way into Ohio's landfills in 2007. Instead, it was recycled into 37,857 highway guardrail blocks, thanks to the partnership between the Ohio Clean Marinas program, Mondo Polymer Technologies, Inc., and Lake Erie marina operators.

Shrink-wrap is commonly used for protecting recreational boats stored outside during the winter season from snow, ice, water and debris. The shrink wrap encloses the vessel by heating and shrinking the plastic to make the plastic surfaces ridged thereby providing a protective covering strong enough to hold the weight of snow and ice. In the spring, used shrink-wrap is often discarded and ends up in landfills.

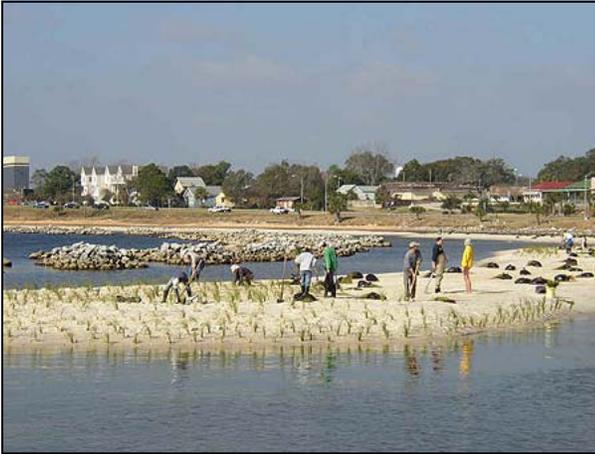
Since its inception in 2006, the Boat Shrink Wrap Recycling program has saved more than 230 tons of boat shrink wrap, enough to cover Ohio's 312-mile Lake Erie coastline with an 8.6-foot wide strip of plastic. In 2007, the program was expanded along the entire Ohio Lake Erie coast, from Toledo to Conneaut, and grew 46% with an increase in marina participation from 70 marinas in 2006 to 102 in 2007. Additionally, the Ohio Clean Marinas Program partnership with OSU Extension Horticulture has saved more than 50 tons of greenhouse plastic over the past two years.

The Boat Shrink Wrap Recycling Program has also opened the door for other organizations to develop similar programs. Starting this year, Michigan Sea Grant implemented a pilot shrink-wrap recycling program in Southeast Michigan partnering with Mondo Polymer Technologies, Inc. as well.

The Ohio Clean Marinas Program is a partnership among Ohio Sea Grant, Lake Erie Marine Trades Association, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, including the Ohio Coastal Management Program. For more information about the Shrink Wrap Recycling Program, visit www.sg.ohio-state.edu/cleanmarinas/shrinkwrap/ or contact Gary Comer at comer.29@osu.edu.

Shores Growing Green in Florida

Salt marshes, seagrass beds and oyster reefs are being created along Pensacola Bay in the City of Pensacola to provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife, stabilize the shoreline, and enhance the historical bay front. The Florida Coastal Management Program provided financial assistance for the project, known as Project GreenShores, which is being implemented by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in partnership with dozens of project sponsors including the City of Pensacola, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, numerous local agencies and businesses, and an army of citizen volunteers.



Marsh Restoration through Project GreenShores.

The project began in 2003 with the creation of seven acres of oyster reefs, an eight-acre salt marsh, and seven acres of potential seagrass habitat. Forty wave attenuators were also incorporated into the site to reduce wave energy. Today, the planted areas are thriving and succeeding into a healthy, diverse biological system with many additional benefits to the community and the environment. In addition to a more natural and attractive shoreline, water quality has improved and there has been a resurgence in commercial shellfishing. The GreenShores site also exhibited remarkable resiliency after a direct hit by Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

Project GreenShores has become an important rallying point for environmental citizenship and a living coastal education venue. For example, students in a high school marine science program assist DEP staff conduct quarterly water quality sampling, fish seining, bird surveys, and bi-annual surveys of seagrass, emergent vegetation and bi-valves. Approximately 1,000 local students visited the site during the 2006-2007 school year.

Building on the success of the first Project GreenShores, work is now underway to expand the project to a second site. Construction of Site 2 began in May of 2007, with the creation of submerged breakwaters/oyster reefs and three inter-tidal marsh islands using sand and recycled concrete material. The mouth of Hawkshaw Lagoon was also dredged to reestablish tidal exchange to this once estuarine system. The construction, completed early September 2007, restored approximately 12 acres of shoreline along Pensacola Bay. The new site was stabilized with vegetation shortly after to create intertidal marsh.

Since its initial construction, Site 2 has already begun to show increased species diversity at the site. Oysters have settled on the breakwaters, large numbers of fish (especially mangrove snapper) have moved into the area, and birds can be seen using the habitat to rest and hunt. Future plans include building a third breakwater at Site 2 and constructing several more intertidal sand islands.

For more information on Project GreenShores, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/northwest/Ecosys/section/greenshores.htm or contact Amy Baldwin at amy.baldwin@dep.state.fl.us.

Washington Approves First of 125 Local Plans

The Washington Coastal Management Program (WCMP) recently approved the first three of 125 comprehensive updates to local Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs). SMPs are local government plans for addressing development issues along their marine and freshwater shorelines. The SMPs are being revised to reflect significant updates to the SMP guidelines. The Guidelines were rewritten in 2003 in response to major updates to the state's Shoreline Management Act (SMA), the first major update since its 1972 inception.

Adopted through a citizen referendum, the SMA is the cornerstone of the WCMP, encouraging water-dependent uses, the protection of shoreline natural resources, and increased shoreline public access. Among many other improved requirements, SMPs must now ensure that regulated development results in "no net loss of ecological function." Local governments demonstrate this tenant by undertaking a cumulative impacts analysis of their proposed polices and regulations. SMPs must also contain restoration plans that identify and prioritize restoration sites.

Statewide, 71 jurisdictions are currently working on comprehensive SMP updates. Washington plans to have all updates completed by 2015. WCMP staff provide significant technical assistance to the local jurisdictions within the coastal boundary to help them through this update process. Please contact Carrie Byron at cbyr461@ECY.WA.GOV if you have any questions or visit www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sma/st_guide/SMP/index.html for more information.

New Dam Removal Guide Released for Gulf of Maine Region

The Gulf of Maine Council's (GOMC) River Restoration Monitoring Steering Committee, with support from the New Hampshire and Maine Coastal Management Programs, NOAA's Restoration Center, and others, recently published the *Stream Barrier Removal Monitoring Guide* (Guide). The effects of removing barriers, such as dams and culverts, are rarely monitored sufficiently. According to the GOMC, "Significant resources are invested in these stream barrier removal projects, but monitoring the outcomes of the projects usually has not been a priority." The new Guide aims at correcting this by providing guidance for developing post-dam removal monitoring programs.

The Guide establishes eight critical parameters to be used when monitoring dam and culvert removal sites, including riparian plant community structure, stream bed sediment grain size distribution, and fish passage. These parameters will allow restoration practitioners to document the physical, chemical, and biological effects of stream barrier removal within the Gulf of Maine Watershed. The document also presents the scientific context for barrier removal and provides detailed methods and data sheets for six of the parameters.



Above: 1935 photo of tide dam on Bellamy River. Below: Restored site in 2005. Photo Credits NH Fish and Game.



For more information about the Guide contact Kevin Lucey at Kevin.Lucey@des.nh.gov, John Kachmar at jon.kachmar@maine.gov, or go to www.gulfofmaine.org/streambarrierremoval/.

Rhode Island Develops New Regulations to Address Sea Level Rise

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) has developed new regulations to address sea level rise, which scientists have declared is already becoming a major concern for Rhode Island's coastal communities.

The proposed regulations are currently in the final stages of the state's review and approval process. Once finalized, these regulations will be a first for the state, and will not only explain scientific findings on sea level rise and provide historic data supporting this idea, but will also serve as a tool for the CRMC and others to better manage development and related concerns taking future sea level rise into account. Sea level rise will result in more coastal flooding and erosion, damage to infrastructure and property, drinking water contamination from salt intruding into aquifers and compromised wastewater treatment facilities. A higher sea level will displace coastal populations and ultimately lead to the loss of recreation areas, public space and coastal wetlands. The proposed regulations will authorize the CRMC to develop and adopt policies and regulations needed to manage the state's coastal resources and property and protect life and property from hazards resulting from the projected sea level rise. The Council, under these regulations, would also be authorized to work with the State Building Commissioner and to adopt freeboard calculations to determine new development guidelines.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC) 2007 report states a potential rise in sea level of 18-59 centimeters by 2100 (depending on the scenario chosen). State experts have agreed that for planning purposes, Rhode Island should expect a minimum rise of 3-5 feet by 2100. The actual sea level rise may be higher than that, however, if greenhouse gases are not reduced far before that time. Rhode Island Sea Grant and the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Center helped the CRMC to facilitate the synthesis of the science behind the proposed regulations and formulate policy options.

For information on the proposed regulations, please contact Laura Ricketson-Dwyer (lricketson@crmc.ri.gov) or go to www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/proposedregs/2007_nov_notice.pdf.

OCRM Sea Grant Fellow to Work on Climate Change Issues

Jessica Berrio will be joining OCRM's National Policy and Evaluation Division in February 2008 as a Sea Grant Fellow. During her year long fellowship, she will be supporting OCRM's cross-office climate change activities. In response to proposed legislation, she will be taking the lead in developing recommendations and guidelines for developing regional, state/territorial, or local climate change vulnerability assessments and coastal adaptation programs. She will also identify existing and needed resources to develop vulnerability assessments and coastal adaptation programs.



Jessica Berrio

Jessica graduated from the University of Charleston South Carolina and for the past year has held an internship at the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium. While working for South Carolina Sea Grant, Jessica conducted research on the private uses of public trust lands in coastal waters and completed her internship thesis *Marine Leasing on South Carolina's Coastal Submerged Lands: recommendations for Commercial and Conservation Strategies*. Jessica will be able to be reached at jessica.berrio@noaa.gov.

2008 Coastal Program Manager's Meeting

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, in partnership with the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association, will host the annual Ocean and Coastal Program Managers' Meeting on February 26 - 28, 2008, in downtown Washington, D.C. at the Washington Marriott, 1221 22nd Street, NW.

Meeting registration costs are \$425 and the online registration deadline is February 18, 2008. Accommodations at the Washington Marriott are available at the government rate of \$188. The cut-off for this rate is February 1st. For additional information, to register for the meeting, and to view an updated meeting agenda, please visit coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/pmm/welcome.html.

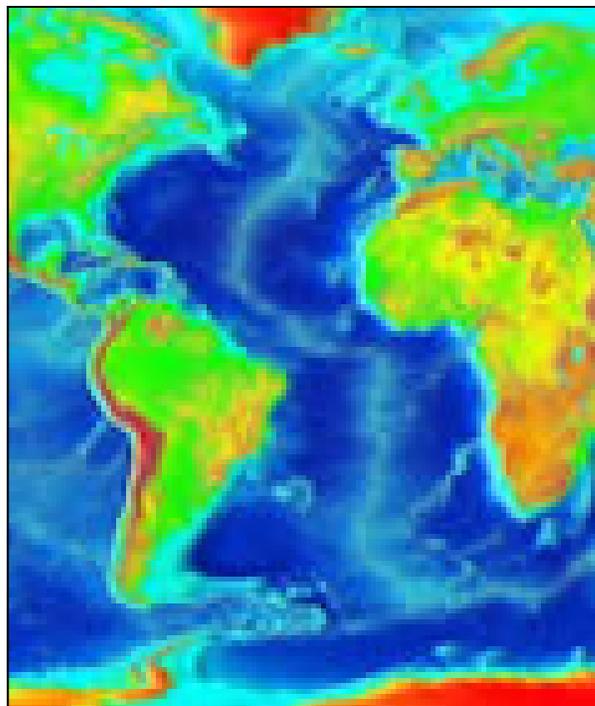
– Spotlight on NOAA Resources –

Moving Toward an Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Approach

Several recent studies and reports have identified challenges and shortcomings to the nation's current, disconnected ocean and coastal mapping efforts. A 2004 National Research Council Assessment and the 2005 U.S. Ocean Action Plan recommend a national integrated approach to mapping to solve these shortcomings.. The Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IOCM) concept is focused on improving coordination among federal, state and local government, non-governmental and private sector mapping efforts to eliminate duplication of mapping efforts and to leverage mapping capabilities and resources. IOCM will also facilitate the standardization of protocols and data formats so that all data will be able to be used by anyone's GIS system.

Ocean and coastal mapping is defined as the acquisition of physical, biological, geological, chemical, economic and archaeological characteristics and boundaries of ocean and coastal areas, resources, and sea beds through the use of acoustics, satellites, aerial photogrammetry, light and imaging, direct sampling, and other mapping technologies; the management and dissemination of these data; and the development of mapping technologies, tools and products.

In order to facilitate the IOCM concept, the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) established the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM) in June 2006, co-chaired by NOAA, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Minerals Management Service. Membership in the Working Group is open to every Federal agency involved in ocean and/or coastal



Atlantic Ocean bathymetric data.

The scope of the IWG-OCM covers a comprehensive concept of ocean and coastal geospatial information that includes:

1. development of plans, strategies, tools, techniques and systems to characterize the ocean and coastal zone in situ and remotely, for both research and applications and including interpretive and derivative geospatial products;
2. management and dissemination of any resulting data and products;
3. development and application of data integration and fusion, analysis, and modeling methods and technologies to produce information, knowledge, and useful products based on the data;
4. interactions with scientific, engineering, ocean and coastal education, resource and management communities, to assess, develop, and refine needs and products based on geospatial information; and
5. research necessary to improve geospatial provision, interpretation and delivery.

The Working Group held its first Technical Workshop in September 2007 to initiate the development of an ocean and coastal mapping inventory - a single data portal to access all federal and federally-funded ocean and coastal mapping data and activities. The Group identified Geospatial One-Stop (<http://gos2.geodata.gov/wps/portal/gos>), an existing government-wide portal that provides access to federal, state and local government geospatial data, as the tool that could serve their needs. The Working Group is now identifying technical, metadata and communication needs in order to transform Geospatial One-Stop into a more robust clearinghouse.

The Working Group will host an Ocean and Coastal Mapping Strategic Planning Workshop in February to begin the development of a national strategic action plan for ocean and coastal mapping that will, among other things, identify priority mapping needs for the country. Several state and regional mapping interests, including the Coastal States Organization, have been invited to participate, to ensure that state needs are incorporated. Also, once drafted, the Working Group plans to seek comments on the draft action plan from as many interests as possible, including state coastal management programs.

The Working Group is engaged with several state and regional groups to facilitate an integrated approach to their mapping efforts. Federal mapping agencies, including NOAA, are actively engaged in the development of state coastal mapping plans and activities including California, Washington, Oregon, and Long Island Sound (New York and Connecticut).

For additional information about the Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping efforts, contact Roger Parsons with NOAA at roger.l.parsons@noaa.gov.

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The quarterly *Coastal Management Program Newsletter* was developed in response to state requests for assistance in improved communication/lesson-sharing among the state and territory coastal management programs. Please let us know about interesting things going on in your coastal zone you would like to share with others. If you have any projects that you would like to highlight, please send a brief description to Allison.Castellan@noaa.gov. The submission deadline for the next newsletter is April 1, 2008.