

COASTAL MANAGEMENT NEWS

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Texas is undertaking the largest coastal protection effort in the state's history as part of Hurricane Ike recovery efforts, including this renourishment project in front of the seawall in Galveston. Before (top) and after (bottom) renourishment. Photos courtesy of the Texas Coastal Management Program

Texas Continues to Help Ike Communities Recover

September 13, 2009, marked the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Ike striking the Texas coast. Hurricane Ike roared across Galveston Island and Bolivar Peninsula and into eastern Texas, destroying or damaging several thousand homes and businesses, causing more than \$29 billion in damage.

Now, a little more than a year later, most of the businesses on Galveston Island that were damaged by the storm have reopened, and a majority of the population has returned. Although a sense of normalcy is returning to the island, the landscape on Bolivar Peninsula still bears scars from the storm, and much work remains to be done as residents continue rebuilding their homes and lives. The Texas General Land Office

(GLO), the lead agency for the Texas Coastal Management Program, played a significant role in responding to the storm and helping communities recover. The GLO continues to assist local officials and is committed to restoring the beach and dune system.

According to the Texas Open Beaches Act, the beach is a public easement. No private structures are allowed on the beach. Determination of the public beach enables the state and local coastal governments to protect the public's right to use the beach, protect the public beach from erosion or encroachment caused by adjacent development, and enforce protection of state designated critical dune areas.

The first line of vegetation—where grasses and other natural vegetation

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Hurricane Ike Recovery (Continued from pg. 1)

start to grow in the dunes—usually determines the landward boundary of the beach in Texas. However, Hurricane Ike destroyed the line of vegetation along the Upper Texas Coast. In August 2009, the GLO completed an extensive shoreline assessment to reestablish the public beach boundary, marking the transition away from the temporary 4.5-foot line of elevation used to determine the boundary of the public beach for emergency permitting and rebuilding after the hurricane. The new determination line set for the public beach is 200 feet from mean low water. Reestablishing this line has greatly aided recovery and rebuilding efforts.

The GLO has also been instrumental in helping local communities identify potential mitigation projects that could be eligible for federal hazard mitigation grants. By securing \$10 million in matching funds from the state, the GLO is enabling local governments to purchase damaged beachfront properties from willing homeowners through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Damaged structures will be removed, which will eliminate the threat they pose to public health and safety, and the properties will be converted to open space in perpetuity, ensuring that homes are not rebuilt in high-hazard areas where the risk of damage from another storm is greatest.

Property owners in the City of Galveston and Galveston County whose properties were destroyed or substantially

damaged are eligible to participate. Through this funding, it is estimated that over 800 homes that were destroyed or damaged during the storm will be removed from the Texas coast. For many property owners who lost everything, this assistance is helping them put their lives back together.

The GLO is also involved in a number of other projects to help protect coastal communities from future hazard events. This includes undertaking the biggest coastal protection effort in the state's history, which consists of beach nourishment projects, dune rebuilding and restoration, estuarine habitat restoration, revetment repair and construction, and updating critical erosion rates; and helping communities amend and update their local and regional mitigation action plans to meet the mitigation goals under the Texas Coastal Management Program.

While great strides have been made over the past year, the GLO continues to help with Hurricane Ike recovery and to restore the beach and dune system. The GLO also continues to work with local officials and property owners to make Texas coastal communities more resilient and better prepared for future storms. For more information on the GLO's hazard mitigation efforts along the Texas coast, visit www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/hazmit/ or contact Eddie Fisher at Eddie.Fisher@glo.state.tx.us.

Oregon Amends Territorial Sea Plan to Include Policies for Offshore Renewable Energy

The Oregon Coastal Management Program recently completed the first phase of an amendment to the state's Territorial Sea Plan to include a new chapter focusing on offshore renewable energy. The new chapter is titled "Use of the Territorial Sea for the Development of Renewable Energy Facilities or Other Related Structures, Equipment or Facilities."

The chapter describes the process for making decisions concerning the development of renewable energy facilities (e.g., wind, wave, current, thermal, etc.) in the state territorial sea and specifies the areas where that development may be sited. The new policies are intended to protect areas important to renewable marine resources, ecosystem integrity, marine habitat, and areas important to fisheries from the potential adverse effects of renewable energy facility siting, development, operation, and decommissioning and also identify the appropriate locations for such development that

minimizes potential adverse impacts to existing ocean resource users and coastal communities.

The Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission adopted the new section and its corresponding administrative rule (OAR 660-036-0005) on November 5, 2009. The second phase of this effort is still underway and will result in maps that designate areas for locating and developing renewable energy facilities in the state's territorial sea. These maps will be incorporated into the Territorial Sea Plan through a later amendment to the plan.

The new chapter can be read at www.oregon.gov/LCD/OCMP/docs/Ocean/otsp_5.pdf. For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/LCD/tspac.shtml or contact Paul Klarin at paul.klarin@state.or.us.

Maine Develops Climate Change Documentary

As in many other regions of the country, Maine coastal property owners are concerned about climate change but are unsure about what, if anything, they can do about making their properties more resilient to the effects of a changing climate. Local municipal officials are also looking for information regarding climate change effects and mitigation strategies to protect their communities. In order to address these stakeholder needs, the Maine Coastal Management Program has partnered with the Maine and Oregon Sea Grant programs, Maine Geological Survey, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Climate Change Institute, and the University of Maine Center for Research and Evaluation to develop the documentary *Building a Resilient Coast: Maine Confronts Climate Change*. This five-part series is designed to help coastal communities adapt to climate change and is a part of a larger project *Climate Variability and Coastal Community Resilience: Testing a National Model of State-Based Outreach*, which was developed by the Oregon and Maine Sea Grant programs.

The Maine portion of this climate outreach project targets coastal property owners and municipal officials. The project team developed a three-pronged approach: a needs assessment, which established the message to be delivered through the project; an outreach plan, which focused on identifying and addressing the barriers to constructive action faced by the target audiences; and a post-outreach assessment designed to determine the effectiveness of the outreach activities in affecting the audiences' beliefs and opinions.

As part of the needs assessment, the project partners conducted six focus groups and developed and sent out surveys to 6,967 coastal property owners and 250 town officials to identify their information needs and attitudes regarding climate change and its impacts on the coast. The focus groups and survey focused on the southern coast of Maine, which contains the majority of the state's sand beaches, and secondarily, the midcoast region where there are numerous bluffs and a history of landslides in the area.

The *Building a Resilient Coast* documentary, released in August 2009, is a major outreach product of the project collaboration. Information from the focus groups and community surveys was used to tailor the documentary to the target audience, and a user guide that accompanies the documentary has been used to facilitate discussion groups. A select group of survey respondents viewed the documentary and took part in a post-assessment survey. In addition to assisting with survey and focus group design, development of the script, and identification of shooting locations, Maine Coastal Program staff were featured in the documentary itself, providing expert information on how coastal communities and individual property owners can plan for climate change impacts.

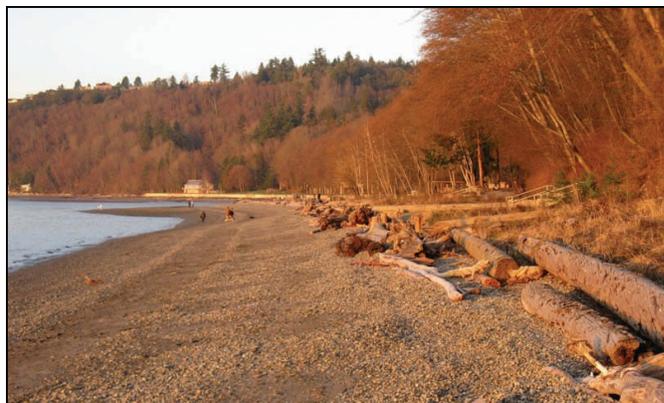
For more information on the coastal resiliency partnership and to view the *Building a Resilient Coast* documentary, visit www.seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/coastal-community-resilience or contact Kathleen.Leyden@maine.gov.

Washington Releases New Guidance on No Net Loss

In December 2009, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) published guidance on "no net loss" of shoreline ecological functions for local governments updating their Shoreline Master Programs. Washington's Shoreline Management Act (SMA), the foundation of Washington's coastal zone management program, governs the use and development of the state's shores to balance responsible development with environmental protection and public access. Local governments implement the SMA policies through Shoreline Master Programs (SMP). SMP Guidelines, part of the state administrative code, translate the broad SMA policies into specific standards that local governments must include in their SMPs.

When Washington adopted its new SMP Guidelines in 2003, it included a governing principle requiring no net loss of shoreline ecological functions. The no net loss standard relies on mitigation and shoreline protection

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For decades, a park road and large gabion seawall had covered the upper portion of this beach. In 2005, the City of Burien and the Corps of Engineers restored over one thousand feet of shoreline by removing the seawall and historic fill, nourishing the beach with sand and gravel, and planting vegetation. This improved numerous ecological functions, including the connection between the upland forest and the beach, the gradual delivery of sediment to the beach through erosion, and the potential for forage fish to spawn on the upper beach. Credit: Hugh Shipman

No Net Loss (Continued from pg. 3)

and restoration to avoid a net loss of shoreline function due to new development. While the no net loss principle is a noteworthy achievement, many local governments were confused about how best to achieve no net loss through their SMP.

A new chapter in the SMP Handbook explains the no net loss principle. It also provides examples of practices local governments can employ to achieve no net loss and includes steps they can take to demonstrate no net loss through their SMP planning process, during project review and permitting, and over time. Ecology has publicized the availability of this new resource through its quarterly coordination meetings for local governments updating SMPs, through emails, and on its website.

Ecology is currently developing a list of potential indicators of no net loss that local governments can measure to assess the effectiveness of the no net loss policy. These indicators may include the acreage of riparian vegetation, length of shoreline armoring, etc. Ecology expects to release the final list during the first quarter of 2010. Local governments will track several indicators over time and report on their progress on achieving no net loss as part of their SMP review cycle, which is required every seven years.

To view the new chapter “No Net Loss of Ecological Functions,” visit www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelines/smp/handbook/Chapter4.pdf. For additional information, contact Carrie Byron at cbyr461@ecy.wa.gov.

Southeast Governors Partner in South Atlantic Alliance

In October 2009, in recognition of the array of stresses on their shared ocean and coastal resources, the governors of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida announced an agreement to work together to enhance and protect these resources and ensure regional economic and cultural sustainability.

The Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance is a state-led voluntary partnership that aims to significantly increase regional collaboration among South Atlantic states in partnership with federal agencies and other stakeholders to sustain and enhance the environmental, natural resource, economic, public safety, social, and national defense missions of the respective states and the South Atlantic region. NOAA, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been designated as alliance co-chairs.

The four South Atlantic states have developed a strategy identifying four major regional priority issues areas to serve as the foundation for the initial set of programs and activities.

- **Healthy Ecosystems:** Enhancing and supporting ecosystem-based management efforts within the region; improving economic, social, and cultural benefits from resources; and improving biological, economic, and cultural diversity.
- **Working Waterfronts:** Sustaining and enhancing waterfront cultural traditions, commerce, and public use of waterfront facilities and integrating coastal and land-use planning tools to manage future development.
- **Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters:** Improving water quality and coastal ecosystem health by

providing the data and information needed to help coastal managers and decision makers address ecosystem and human health issues.

- **Disaster-Resilient Communities:** Building communities that are able to resist and recover from the impacts of natural hazards by enhancing understanding of these events, sharing best practices, and implementing new and more effective management strategies.

The next step is the development of the Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance Action Plan. The action plan will include a general strategy for implementation and provide additional details on goals and action items for the four issue areas and will be reviewed annually for progress and updated every five years for content. Public involvement will be encouraged during plan development.

To learn more, visit www.southatlanticalliance.org/ or contact Chris Russo at chris.russo@ncdenr.gov.



The alliance aims to protect resources such as those represented by Gray's Reef Seascape off Sapelo Island, Georgia.

MARCO Holds Stakeholder Conference

Stakeholders from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) gathered in New York City December 9-10, 2009. The Mid-Atlantic Stakeholder Conference brought together nearly 150 representatives from New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia along with key federal partners to discuss regional challenges and activities and how each organization could help advance the four MARCO priorities.

This was the second meeting of the regional collaborative. MARCO was created in June, when the governors from the five participating states signed an interstate agreement charging the states to work together to address shared priorities.

The four key priorities MARCO is working to address are:

- Coordinating and protecting important habitats on a regional scale;
- Promoting improvements in the region's coastal water quality;
- Collaborating on a regional approach to support sustainable development of offshore renewable energy; and
- Preparing the region's coastal communities for the impacts of climate change.

See www.midatlanticocean.org/ to learn more.

Regional CZM Meetings Go Virtual

The annual Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Coastal Zone Management Meeting went "virtual" this year. The meeting brings together staff from state coastal zone management programs from Maine through Virginia, NOAA, and other regional partners and provides an important forum to allow coastal managers in the region to exchange ideas, learn from one another, and discuss key coastal management issues. Due to severe budget issues and travel restrictions, few states were able to send staff to an in-person fall meeting.

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management hosted the meeting, which consisted of three half-day webinars in November and December

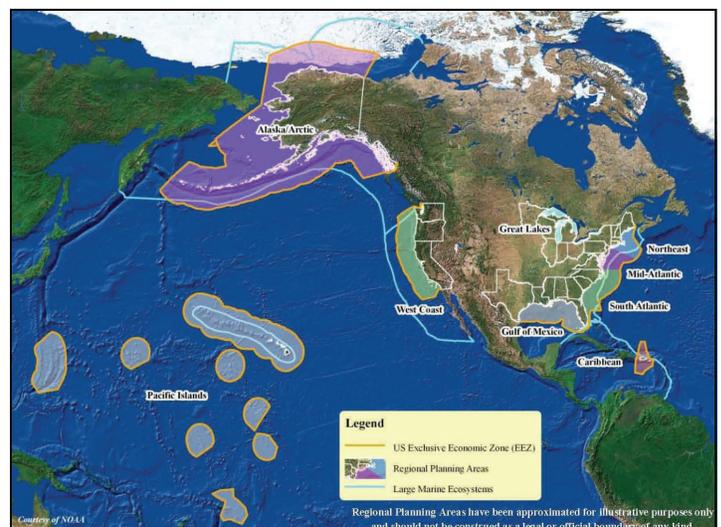
2009. This year's meeting focused on regional ocean governance, planning for climate change, and energy and marine spatial planning. The agenda and presentations from the meeting are online at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/archivedmtgdocs/2009neregmtg/welcome.html>. For additional information about the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic meeting, contact Allison Castellan at allison.castellan@noaa.gov.

The West Coast Region is also planning a webinar for their upcoming regional meeting on January 27, 2010, to address similar topics. For more information, contact Matt Gove at matt.gove@noaa.gov.

Ocean Task Force Releases Marine Spatial Planning Framework

On December 14, 2009, President Obama's Ocean Policy Task Force released its Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning for a 60-day public review and comment period. Comments can be sent to the White House Council on Environmental Quality until February 12, 2010. Under the framework, coastal and marine spatial planning would be regional in scope; developed cooperatively among federal, state, tribal, and local authorities and regional governance structures; and with substantial stakeholder and public input. After the close of the comment period on the framework, the task force will finalize its recommendations for this report and the September 10, 2009, Interim Report (see Coastal Management News October 2009) and provide a final report to the President in early 2010.

To view the draft framework and to submit comments, visit www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/interim-framework.



This map illustrates proposed regional planning areas.

CELCP Updates

NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

CELCP FY 2010 Funding Appropriation

Congress appropriated \$20 million for the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) in FY 2010, five percent of which will be reserved for program management. The program received an additional \$5 million for CELCP projects in the Great Lakes through the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). GLRI funding will supplement general CELCP funds.

CELCP Funding Competitions

FY2010: In December 2009, NOAA released the FY 2010 competitively ranked list of projects eligible for CELCP funding. NOAA will use this list as a guide in selecting projects for funding through both CELCP and the GLRI. The list identifies, in ranked order, 57 projects considered to be ready and eligible for funding in FY 2010 from 28 coastal states and territories. Now that the FY 2010 appropriations bill has been enacted, OCRM is working to finalize the list of FY 2010 projects selected for funding. This list should be posted on the funding opportunities page of the CELCP website (see link in paragraph below) by the end of January.

FY2011: NOAA released the federal funding opportunity notice (FFO) for the FY 2011 CELCP competition on January 19, 2010. Competition materials will be available in Grants.gov, but will also be posted on the CELCP funding opportunities page at http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html. Proposals will be due to NOAA by April 9, 2010, approximately 90 days following the FFO publication date. The FY 2011 FFO will maintain interim approaches that were used for the FY 2010 competition to address changes contained in the new CELCP authorization law, which went into effect March 30, 2009.

Selected Acquisitions

On December 17, 2009, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the Sonoma Land Trust acquired Jenner Headlands, a 5,630-acre property in Sonoma County, California, and recorded a conservation easement on the property that removes the threat of development and requires that the land be managed to protect and enhance the natural resources. The property includes rich habitat for fish and wildlife, dramatic views, extensive opportunities for future recreation, and a spectacular segment of the California Coastal Trail.

On November 9, 2009, the City of Port Clinton, Ohio, acquired an 18.219-acre parcel along the shores of Lake Erie. The property is part of the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways for migratory birds and is an Audubon Ohio Designated Important Bird Area.



With the assistance of CELCP funding, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District recorded a conservation easement over Jenner Headlands, a 5,600 acre property in Sonoma County. The easement protects a unique coastal bluff and grasslands ecosystem, several creeks and drainages, and forested uplands. Credit: Stephen Joseph

Land Conservation and Climate Change Workshop at 2010 PMM

OCRM will be hosting a half-day meeting on February 9, 2010, focusing on land conservation and climate change. The goals of the meeting will be to increase awareness of federal agency directives related to climate change within the land protection community and to discuss the need for federal leadership and coordination regarding climate change and land conservation. Agency leadership and program staff from relevant federal programs are welcome to attend as are coastal program managers attending the February 2010 Program Managers' Meeting (PMM) and other members of the conservation community.

OCRM Moves Forward on OTEC Licensing Program

Among NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) activities related to energy development is licensing authority for ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) projects under the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act (OTECA). OTEC technology uses the temperature differential between the deep cold and relatively warmer surface waters of the ocean to generate electricity using the same principles as a heat pump. Unlike many other forms of renewable energy (e.g., wind and solar), OTEC is a potential baseload source of electricity that would not need back-up fossil fuel-based electric generators.

When OTECA was enacted in 1980, it was envisioned that the technology would be producing 10,000 MWe of electricity by 1999. NOAA quickly established an OTECA program and promulgated regulations for licensing OTEC projects. However, the assumptions of the development of an OTEC industry were based on overpromises about the readiness of the technology. With no license applications having been received, the program was disbanded and license regulations rescinded in 1996.

Two years ago, with oil prices over \$100 a barrel, several companies approached NOAA with questions about OTECA licensing requirements for OTEC facilities. A serious effort is currently underway to develop an OTEC facility, with millions of dollars being invested by private companies in project planning and design. In addition, both the Navy and Department of Energy have made substantial grant awards for OTEC component and subsystems development.

The new OCRM OTECA team has started a dialog with the OTEC community, including academics, private sector interests, nongovernmental organizations, and other federal agencies. One of the foremost questions for the OTECA team has been "What is the current readiness of the technology given the technological hurdles that thwarted previous development efforts?"

In November 2009, OCRM and the Coastal Response Research Center at the University of New Hampshire cosponsored an OTEC Technology Workshop in Durham, New Hampshire, to assess the technical readiness of a commercial-scale OTEC system. The workshop addressed the OTEC state-of-the-art technology, technical feasibility, and timeframe for commercial-scale development. Over 50 participants attended the workshop including federal agency staff from NOAA, the Department of Energy, and Naval Facilities Engineering Command; representatives from national laboratories and academia; OTEC developers; and other experts. The workshop provided insight on the outstanding questions about the readiness, challenges, and development horizons for industry. Although there are still design and potential regulatory challenges to the development of a commercial-scale facility, the workshop found that advances in deep-sea technologies and computing, design, and manufacturing capabilities make it likely that an OTEC facility could be built at least at a demonstration project scale.

Industry is eyeing Hawaii as a potential location for a demonstration OTEC facility. Three principals from NOAA's OTECA Team traveled to Hawaii in November 2009 to meet with a variety of federal and state agencies, industry, and renewable energy research institutions to raise awareness of the rapidly unfolding plans for an OTEC demonstration project in Hawaii and understand local concerns about OTEC development. They also discussed the authorization requirements for demonstration and full commercial projects and the current regulatory gap between them. To help address the regulatory gaps, NOAA plans to hold a workshop in Hawaii in 2010 that will focus on the regulatory thresholds for environmental impacts and risk of OTEC projects. For more information, contact Whitney Blanchard, OCRM's energy specialist, at whitney.blanchard@noaa.gov.

North Carolina Hosts Forum on Sea Level Rise

On January 14-15, 2010, the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management hosted a public Sea Level Rise Science Forum. The forum brought together experts to discuss sea level rise in North Carolina, and to release figures on projected rise through 2100. Over 250 stakeholders participated from the public, academic and policy institutions, local government, and state and federal agencies.

The North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission's (CRC) Science Panel on Coastal Hazards stated that relative sea level by 2100 is likely to be up to 1.4 meters

(4.59 feet). The Panel recommended that the CRC adopt 1 meter by 2100 for planning purposes, and review the planning rate at least every five years. The CRC and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will use these metrics as the foundation for education efforts, policy development, and adaptation planning.

For additional information, visit www.nccoastalmanagement.net/slr.html or contact Tancred Miller at Tancred.Miller@ncdenr.gov.

- Spotlight on NOAA Resources -

National Fish Habitat Action Plan Gaining Momentum

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP), an unprecedented attempt to address the loss and degradation of fish habitat nationwide, is gaining momentum in Congress and enthusiasm on the ground. This voluntary, partnership-driven conservation investment strategy encourages collaboration between public agencies, private organizations, and citizens to provide system-wide results.

With a network of regional partnerships setting priorities based on scientific assessment and strategic planning, NFHAP provides a framework for collaborative action to conserve habitats vital to fisheries and resilient coastal communities. NOAA provides leadership in implementing the plan to help sustain these valuable habitats, focusing on achieving measurable gains in coastal habitat quantity and quality.

A science-based approach to habitat conservation is crucial to ensuring that project funding results in tangible and sustainable gains. A key NFHAP objective is to conduct a condition analysis of all fish habitats within the United States every five years. The results of the first such analysis will be presented in a comprehensive report, *Status of Fish Habitats in the United States*, which will be released by the end of 2010.

Fish Habitat Partnerships, the primary work units of the plan, form around important aquatic habitats and species. There are currently 14 recognized and 7 candidate partnerships, including groups addressing habitat conservation on the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts and in Alaska, Hawaii, and the Great Lakes. These partnerships help to leverage federal, state, and private funding to get the most out of priority habitat conservation efforts.

The following partnership examples illustrate NFHAP opportunities:

- The Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, including coastal areas from Texas to Virginia, is a regional collaboration of natural resource and science agencies designed to support and facilitate on-the-ground habitat conservation and assessment. Recently highlighted projects include oyster reef and wetland restoration and living shoreline stabilization.
- The newer Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, stretching from Maine to the Florida Keys, encompasses areas from the headwaters of coastal rivers to the continental slope but will be focusing its efforts on estuarine environments.
- Several Alaskan partnerships work to ensure that thriving salmon populations, healthy habitats, and vital communities can coexist. With support from NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Lands Conservation Program, the Southwest Alaska Partnership secured protection for 21,000 acres along the Agulowak River.



Oyster restoration projects like this one aim to provide a more natural buffering of a shoreline.

The NFHAP framework offers new opportunities for regional collaboration among coastal managers on shared issues, with intriguing potential for efficiency and success. The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act, with bipartisan support in the House and Senate, will help further the plan by focusing the scientific and conservation capabilities of stakeholders and by helping to prioritize, fund, and implement on-the-ground conservation actions.

The National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Habitat Conservation leads NFHAP coordination efforts for NOAA. For more information or to get involved with fish habitat partnerships in your state, visit <http://fishhabitat.org/> or contact Ben Laws at Benjamin.Laws@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, 2010.

