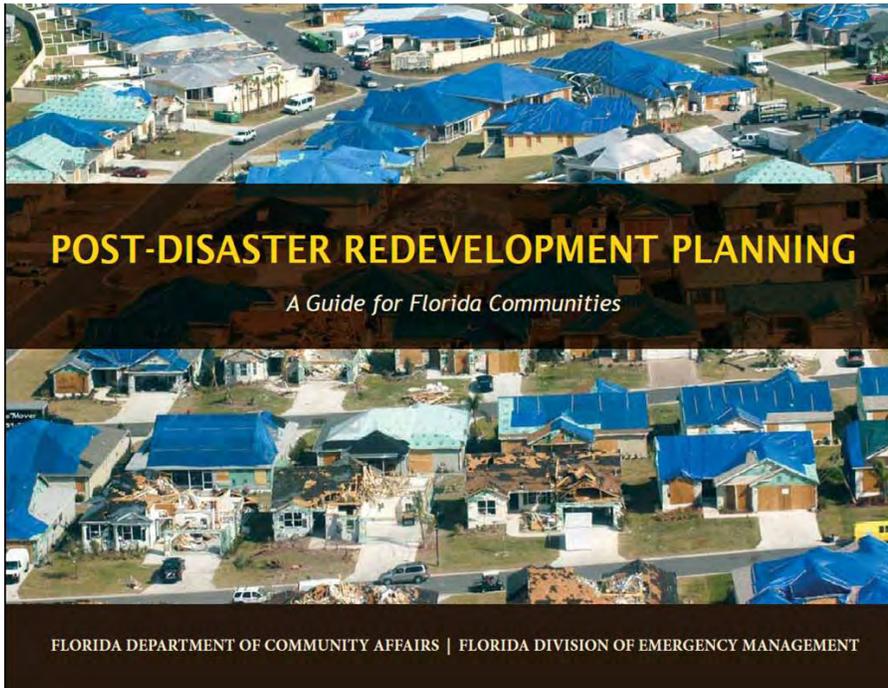


# COASTAL MANAGEMENT NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 1, January 2011



*This guide helps communities plan to “build back better” before disaster strikes.*

## Florida Plans for Long-Term Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment

The 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons left a lasting impression on many Floridians: 12 named storms made landfall within the state, 7 of which received major presidential declarations. This made it clear that long-term recovery planning is not something that should be put off until after a storm, since opportunities to build more resilient communities are often lost in the chaotic rush to recreate existing conditions. To help communities prepare for disaster recovery, Florida's Coastal Management Program provided funding to support a Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning Initiative, a partnership between the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), focused on enhancing community

resiliency and long-term redevelopment through post-disaster redevelopment planning.

Post-disaster redevelopment plans are required for all Florida coastal counties and municipalities, and is encouraged for inland communities (Section 163.3177(7)(I), Florida Statutes). A plan identifies policies, operational strategies, and roles and responsibilities for implementation. It guides decisions affecting long-term recovery and redevelopment of a community after a disaster, and it emphasizes seizing opportunities for hazard mitigation and community improvement consistent with the goals of the local comprehensive plan and full participation of the citizens.

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Recovery topics include land use, housing, economic redevelopment, infrastructure, health and social services, environmental restoration, financial considerations, and short-term recovery actions with long-term implications.

The DCA/FDEM partnership, guided by a statewide group of experts on planning and long-term recovery, researched lessons learned during previous disasters, drafted a post-disaster redevelopment planning process based on this research, and piloted the process in five coastal communities. The process is documented in *Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning: A Guide for Florida Communities*, the latest guidebook in a series of best practices published by DCA and FDEM. The release of this guidance is timely, as many Florida counties have recently received funding through various sources for post-disaster redevelopment planning. By 2012, it is expected that approximately 70 percent of the communities in Florida will have local post-disaster redevelopment plans based on this new guidance.

Beginning in 2011, the Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning Initiative will focus on outreach,

implementation, and advancement of planning and long-term recovery concepts. The program will include online training for elected officials, citizens, planners and emergency managers, as well as a video geared toward communities with plans that are looking for guidance on implementation. In addition, DCA will explore the relationship between sea level rise adaptation and coastal resiliency planning and apply these concepts to post-disaster redevelopment and other planning processes. FDEM plans to examine how the post-disaster redevelopment plan functions operationally during long-term recovery and to create a statewide long-term recovery framework that connects local planning efforts to the National Disaster Recovery Framework, currently under development by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

To learn more about the pilots and access the guidebook and other recovery resources, visit [www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/dcp/PDRP](http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/dcp/PDRP). For more information, contact Julie Dennis with DCA at [julie.dennis@dca.state.fl.us](mailto:julie.dennis@dca.state.fl.us) or Emily Meyer with FDEM at [emily.meyer@em.myflorida.com](mailto:emily.meyer@em.myflorida.com).

## Wisconsin County Proposes Scientifically Based Setbacks in Erosion-Prone Areas

Using funds provided through the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, Bayfield County, working with scientists from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, has tackled the problem of bluff erosion along Lake Superior. Much of the shoreline in Bayfield County is comprised of high bluffs that sit above the beach. These bluffs have experienced erosion over a long period of time, and this is expected to continue.

However, since erosion is intermittent, landowners sometimes do not see bluff recession over the span of a number of years. There can be periods with little or no erosion followed by periods of extensive erosion. The coastline of Lake Superior has been slower to develop than some other coastal areas in the United States, but that is changing. Development pressures from new, often seasonal, residents from out-of-state who are unfamiliar with the erosion hazard, pose a challenge for the county. To help meet this challenge, Bayfield County decided to establish legally defensible setbacks for new development.

Using scientific principles, Bayfield County has established “safe setbacks” that incorporate three essential components: setbacks from the ordinary high water mark based on the distance a bluff will recede before it reaches a stable angle; projected bluff recession rates over the life of a proposed structure; and a typical



*This recently constructed home was built at the existing 75 feet setback. If there is even one foot of bluff retreat, it will be out of compliance and variances will be needed for future construction. The long-term erosion rate is two feet per year. Credit: Dave Mickelson*

minimum facility setback of 75 feet as required by the county. These “safe setbacks” will serve as the baseline for the county’s proposed setback rules and are considered more realistic and defensible than the present setback of 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark as required by Wisconsin state law. The new

*(Continued on pg. 3)*

*Wisconsin Setbacks (Continued from pg. 2)*

setbacks are being incorporated into the county's GIS and will soon be available to the public. Property owners will be able to quickly and easily see how their parcels are expected to be affected by future erosion as well as by the proposed setback requirements.

Bayfield County and its townships have all recently completed comprehensive plans. These plans recognize the need for greater setbacks to mitigate erosion. The county and township comprehensive plans incorporate information from this setback project as well as the recommendations from its report.

The proposed setback ordinances will be presented to the Bayfield County Zoning Board in early 2011. In the

meantime, the county is using their recent findings and the new methodology to recommend building setbacks on a voluntary basis to property owners in the area.

The scientific and GIS methods in this project can be replicated in other areas where bluffs are a part of the shoreline. Already, two other counties on Lake Superior are planning similar projects. For more information on coastal erosion in Bayfield County, visit [www.bayfieldcounty.org/coastal/](http://www.bayfieldcounty.org/coastal/) or contact Scott Galetka with Bayfield County Land Records Department at [sgaletka@bayfieldcounty.org](mailto:sgaletka@bayfieldcounty.org) or Karl Kastrosky with Bayfield County Planning and Zoning at [kkastrosky@bayfieldcounty.org](mailto:kkastrosky@bayfieldcounty.org).

## Coastal Program Managers Gather for Regional Meetings

### Gulf Coast

In early November 2010, the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Zone Management Regional Meeting was held in Tallahassee, Florida. This event provided an important opportunity for coastal managers to meet in person following several months of intense response efforts to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Management Programs; NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), Gulf Coast Services Center, Climate Program Office, and Office of Response and Restoration; the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement; nongovernmental organizations; and other entities. The meeting included updates by each state to share information about program activities since the last regional meeting in 2008 and sessions on critical issues facing the region, including climate change, ecosystem restoration, consistency for offshore activities, and regional ocean governance. The second day of the meeting was held at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve and included a tour of the reserve's new education and training center. For more information, contact Josh Lott at [Josh.Lott@noaa.gov](mailto:Josh.Lott@noaa.gov).

### Southeast

Also in November, staff from the Southeast Coastal Management and National Estuarine Research Reserve Programs met in Beaufort, North Carolina, for a joint regional meeting. This was the first joint meeting in the southeast for the Coastal Management Programs and Reserves, and it provided an opportunity to enhance regional collaboration. Participants shared information about programmatic priorities; explored collaborative opportunities related to coastal growth, sea level rise,

and shoreline stabilization; and identified actions to improve collaboration on priority issues. Also in attendance were staff from NOAA's OCRM, Coastal Services Center, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, and Southern and Caribbean Regional Team; North and South Carolina Sea Grant College Programs; and other entities. For additional information, contact Sarah van der Schalie at [Sarah.vanderSchalie@noaa.gov](mailto:Sarah.vanderSchalie@noaa.gov).



*Southeast Regional Meeting participants visited Piver's Island in North Carolina. Credit: NOAA*

### West Coast

In early January 2011, the Western Coastal Managers' meeting was held in San Francisco, California. Staff from the Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, and Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Programs participated, as well as staff from some of California's National Estuarine Research Reserves and NOAA's OCRM, National Marine Sanctuaries, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Coastal Services Center, National Marine Protected Areas Center, and Climate Service. Representatives from the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives also attended. Discussions focused on sea level rise and coastal hazards, coastal and marine spatial planning, and updates from each of the states, OCRM, and coastal fellows. For more information, contact Matt Gove at [Matt.Gove@noaa.gov](mailto:Matt.Gove@noaa.gov).



## Rural Georgia County Makes Strides in Protecting Natural Resources

In November 2010, with technical and financial assistance from the Georgia Coastal Management Program (GA CMP), Brantley County, Georgia, took important steps in strengthening its natural resource protection. One of the GA CMP's five inland counties, Brantley is home to a 97-mile stretch of the Satilla River, which winds through the lower coastal plain of southeast Georgia. The river supports numerous plants, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, including rare, threatened, and endangered species, and its surrounding floodplain, tributary systems, and isolated upland wetlands provide for fishing, hunting, canoeing/kayaking, and other forms of nature-based recreation. Additionally, the Satilla River–St. Andrews Sound estuary is an important source of brown and white shrimp and blue crab, which are harvested commercially and recreationally.



*A new future land use plan and ordinances will help protect the Satilla River and other natural resources in Brantley County. Credit: Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Coastal Resources Division*

The health of this important river system is threatened by both historical land use and new development pressures.

Agricultural and forestry practices have degraded the river, and runoff from the county's 665 miles of dirt roads contribute to silting of wetlands and tributaries. The lack of land use and zoning ordinances in Brantley County has led to inappropriate development in sensitive wetlands and along river banks. Compounding the problem, Brantley County is experiencing rapid population growth as development in neighboring oceanfront counties spills over the county's eastern boundaries.

For several years, the GA CMP has been working with Brantley County officials, encouraging stewardship of the Satilla River and offering educational opportunities and support. With the employment of the county's first manager and election of new commissioners to the Brantley County Commission, the county found itself in a position to make some changes to limit further degradation of the river and its surrounding lands.

Using funds from a GA CMP Georgia Coastal Incentive Grant, Brantley County has developed a future land use plan, a stormwater management ordinance, and a subdivision ordinance to guide the county's future development. The plan and the ordinances encourage smart growth and low impact development. The Future Land Use Plan includes a goal to minimize impact on natural resources, ensuring the county's land use codes

offer protection for natural resources, supporting projects that feature the Satilla River as an eco-tourism destination, and encouraging the voluntary preservation of green space in new development through incentives. The stormwater ordinance promotes consideration of green infrastructure practices during stormwater management concept planning. These practices include protecting primary and secondary conservation areas, reducing roadway lengths and widths as well as parking lot and building footprints, soil restoration, site reforestation and revegetation, vegetated filter strips, and rain gardens.

The plan and ordinances were adopted unanimously by the Brantley County Commission and became effective in November. Next steps include development of the county's first zoning ordinance, which will be based on the Future Land Use Plan.

The Georgia Coastal Management Program's technical specialists work closely with all 11 county governments and several municipalities in the state's coastal zone, providing tools and educational opportunities and encouraging stewardship and protection of valuable coastal resources. For more information, contact Jennifer Kline at [jkline@gadnr.org](mailto:jkline@gadnr.org).

## OCRM Launches Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Website

In response to resurging interest in renewable energy production, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) has launched a website on Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC). OTEC is a renewable energy technology that uses the temperature gradients in the ocean to generate a baseload, or constant, source of electricity. OTEC technology uses the temperature differential between the deep cold and relatively warmer surface waters of the ocean to generate electricity. The technology is potentially viable in tropical areas where the year-round temperature differential between the deep cold and warm surface waters is greater than 20° Celsius (36° Fahrenheit).

In addition to generating electricity, OTEC technology has the potential to produce other products such as potable water, hydrogen, and ammonia. Surplus cold water from OTEC can also be used for aquaculture and air conditioning systems.

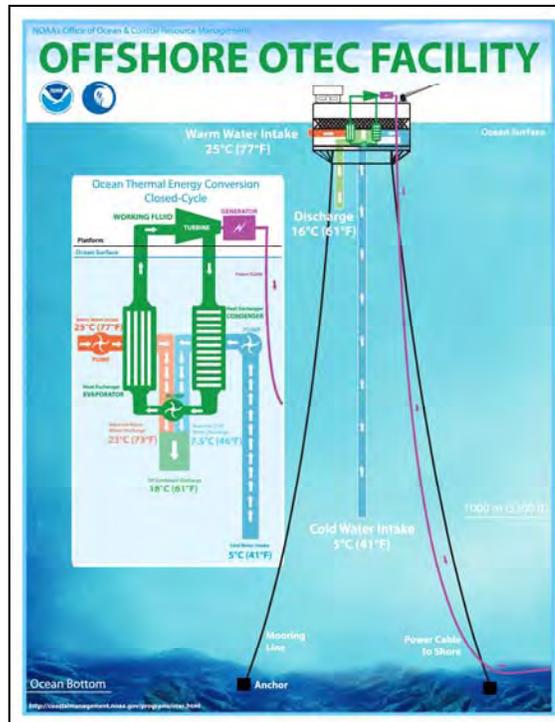
OCRM is responsible for licensing OTEC projects. The U.S. Department of Energy may authorize demonstration projects after consulting with NOAA. Currently, there are no

commercial OTEC facilities, and NOAA has not received any license applications, to date. However, federal agencies and private industry are conducting and pursuing OTEC-related demonstration and research projects.

OCRM's new OTEC website contains information on OTEC technology and potential environmental impacts and on NOAA's licensing authority under the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act of 1980 as well as fact sheets and schematics. It also contains information on workshops held throughout the nation with federal, state, academic, nongovernment, and private sector interests to explore the technological and environmental issues of commercial-scale OTEC systems.

NOAA halted its Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act licensing program and rescinded its regulations in 1996 because of waning commercial interest, but is now rebuilding its OTEC licensing capacity. Interested companies must submit an application for a license through OCRM.

To access the website, visit <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/programs/otec.html>. For more information about OTEC and OCRM's related work, contact Whitney Blanchard at [Whitney.Blanchard@noaa.gov](mailto:Whitney.Blanchard@noaa.gov).



*Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion is a marine renewable energy technology that has the potential to provide baseload electricity.*

## Coastal Program Managers to Gather for Annual Meeting

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) will host the 2011 Coastal Program Managers Meeting on March 2, 2011, at the Dupont Hotel in Washington, DC. The meeting will take place in conjunction with the Coastal States Organization and National Estuarine Research Reserve Association winter meetings. The meeting brings together coastal and estuarine research reserve managers from states, territories, and commonwealths from across the nation and provides a forum for discussion with their federal counterparts on emerging issues in ocean and coastal resource management. This year's agenda includes a joint Coastal Zone Management and National Estuarine Research Reserve working

session on climate change. Coastal Zone Management specific sessions will discuss coastal and marine spatial planning, NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, national program updates, and performance measures and evaluations.

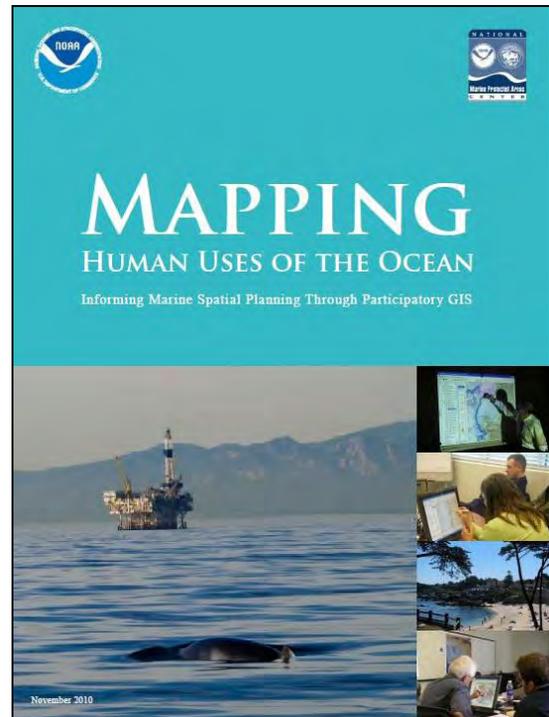
Meeting registration costs are \$225 through February 16, 2011. Accommodations at the Dupont Hotel are available at the government rate of \$181 per night (\$211 beginning March 1) if reserved by February 2, 2011. For additional information and to register for the meeting, visit <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/pmm/welcome.html>.

## MPA Center Publishes Best Practices Manual on Mapping Human Uses of the Ocean

NOAA's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center, within the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, has published a best practices manual on mapping human uses of the ocean using participatory GIS techniques. For the past two years, the center has been engaged in various participatory mapping efforts to document human uses of the coastal and marine environment throughout the U.S. Through a refined participatory process, the center has successfully mapped nearly 30 distinct uses of the ocean at multiple scales, across different domains, and for a variety of marine management applications.

*"Mapping Human Uses of the Ocean: Informing Marine Spatial Planning Through Participatory GIS,"* summarizes the center's mapping approach, provides detailed lessons learned from various participatory mapping projects throughout California, the Northeast, and Hawaii, and provides insight to the successful planning and implementation of mapping efforts to capture spatial data on human uses of the ocean in different regions and at varying scales.

The manual is available online at [www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/mapping\\_human\\_uses\\_nov2010.pdf](http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/mapping_human_uses_nov2010.pdf). For more information on the participatory approach used by NOAA's MPA Center, contact Mimi D'iorio at [Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov](mailto:Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov).



*This guide from NOAA's MPA Center can help managers engage experts and stakeholders in coastal and marine spatial planning efforts.*

## OCRM Publishes Funding Opportunities for State Coastal Programs

On January 6, 2011, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) published two competitive federal funding opportunities for state Coastal Zone Management Programs.

### Modernizing CZM Information Systems

The FY 2011 Modernizing and Improving State Coastal Zone Management Information Systems Competition is a follow-up to the successful FY 2010 competition. It is anticipated that \$1 million will be available to support state Coastal Zone Management Programs' efforts to build, modernize, expand on, or otherwise improve state information systems that can be used to assess, track, and manage permitting activities and/or land use in state coastal zones to inform decision making as it pertains to coastal management. The availability of funds is contingent upon congressional direction regarding FY 2011 appropriations. Proposals are due by February 7, 2011.

### CZMA Section 309—Projects of Special Merit

The purpose of the FY 2012 Projects of Special Merit (Section 309) Competition is to encourage state Coastal Zone Management Programs to develop innovative projects that further their approved Section 309 enhancement area strategies and focus on the following national enhancement area priorities: Wetlands, Hazards, Cumulative and Secondary Impacts, and Ocean and Great Lakes Resources. Each coastal program may submit two state-specific proposals as well as one regional proposal developed in conjunction with other state coastal programs. Proposals are due by September 2, 2011.

Full announcements for both federal funding opportunities are available online at [www.grants.gov/](http://www.grants.gov/). For more information on either program, contact Liz Mountz at [Elizabeth.Mountz@noaa.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Mountz@noaa.gov).

## CELCP Updates NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

### FY 2011 Appropriations/Funding Competition

The federal government will be operating under a continuing resolution for FY 2011 until March 4, 2011. CELCP cannot move forward on FY 2011 project selections until a final funding determination is made. Applicants of selected projects will be contacted shortly after funding levels are finalized.

### FY 2012 CELCP Funding Competition

NOAA released the federal funding opportunity for the FY 2012 Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) competition on January 6, 2011. The notice contains details about the competition, project narrative and budget templates, and the CELCP checklist and is available at [www.grants.gov/](http://www.grants.gov/) and on the CELCP funding opportunities webpage at [http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp\\_fundingop.html](http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html). Proposals are due April 15, 2011.

In accordance with CELCP legislation, 15 percent of CELCP funding will be set aside for projects benefiting National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR). To help determine which projects qualify as "benefiting a NERR," the targeted watershed boundary for each of

the reserves is posted on the CELCP funding opportunities webpage. For questions about the boundaries, contact Roxanne Thomas at [Roxanne.Thomas@noaa.gov](mailto:Roxanne.Thomas@noaa.gov).

### Selected Acquisitions

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources acquired the 26-acre Mashek Creek property on November 18, 2010. The acquisition includes more than 1,700 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline and will protect a natural reproduction trout and salmon stream as well as important neotropical migratory bird habitat. This project was supported through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources acquired 114 acres of land along the Atlantic Ocean and within the waters and wetlands of the Pitahaya, Sabana, and Juan Martin Rivers along the northeastern coast of Puerto Rico. This acquisition will protect highly functional marine, estuarine, and palustrine wetlands; associated forested upland; approximately two miles of perennial river streams, tributaries and channels; and .85 miles of coastal shore along the Atlantic Ocean.



*This project in Wareham, Massachusetts, marks the acquisition of lands critical to the protection of the town's coast. Credit: Mass Audubon*

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, in partnership with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, acquired a conservation easement of more than 95 acres of important coastal land in Wareham, Massachusetts—the largest remaining unprotected privately owned parcel of land left on Wareham's coastline. The site includes extensive salt marsh, vernal pools, forested upland, and freshwater wetlands that are home to several rare species. Contingent on CELCP funding, several adjacent land owners promised to donate or sell conservation easements on their own properties. Thus, this project will result in the preservation of more than 250 acres (1,012 km<sup>2</sup>) in the area, creating an expansive corridor of ecologically valuable coastal land that will be protected in perpetuity.

## – Spotlight on NOAA Resources –

### NOAA's Coral Program Invests in Island Stormwater Management

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) has been working closely with Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) and other territorial/state agencies in the Pacific and Caribbean islands to fill critical gaps in local stormwater management programs. Effective management of sediments, nutrients, and other stormwater contaminants is critical to the long-term health of adjacent coral reefs and other coastal habitats.

Island stormwater management can be challenging given the variable and extreme rainfall patterns, high evapotranspiration rates, thin soils, limited materials, and lack of technical expertise. Many of the structural stormwater practices, treatment standards, and design criteria applied on the U.S. mainland do not work in island settings.

To help island managers overcome these challenges, CRCP has invested over one million dollars in stormwater management assistance for local programs, including technical training for agency staff, contractors, and community leaders; watershed assessment and planning activities in priority coral reef watersheds; and development of island-specific engineering design guidance.

Between 2009-2010, funding from CRCP and/or territorial CMPs was used to contract stormwater and watershed professionals, including the Horsley Witten Group, Inc. and the Center for Watershed Protection, to provide hands-on assistance, including:

- Development of Guam-specific design specifications for structural best management practices to supplement the *CNMI and Guam Stormwater Design Manual*;
- Design of unpaved road drainage improvements to reduce chronic erosion in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), which was subsequently implemented through NOAA Restoration Center funding;



*Lack of adequate erosion and sediment control at construction sites illustrates a source of sedimentation to coral reefs and the importance of associated training and program enforcement. Credit: NOAA*

- Training for local watershed groups and agency staff in Hawaii on stormwater retrofitting (Hawaii Sea Grant then funded implementation of a restoration concept developed at the workshop);
- Stormwater and pollution prevention training for watershed practitioners on the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Guam that led to CMP funding of territorial stormwater regulation updates and watershed planning on Guam as well as CNMI's Blue Starfish Business Certification Program, which acknowledges commercial operations that minimize pollution;
- Development of a contractor certification program on CNMI for construction site erosion and sediment control, which included island-specific training materials, certification exam, and the first erosion and sediment control field guide for protecting coral reefs (this is being replicated on other islands); and
- Continued implementation of wetland and lagoon restoration in Puerto Rico's Guanica watershed in partnership with the NOAA Restoration Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and others.

Current projects include watershed planning on St. Croix, USVI, and development of a Pacific Islands Watershed Institute to train island managers on how to develop and implement watershed plans. Future plans include investing in watershed planning on Maui in partnership with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Through these initial efforts, CRCP has leveraged additional dollars for follow-up projects, to improve local compliance with the Clean Water Act, and to implement key coral protection strategies. To learn more, visit <http://coralreef.noaa.gov/> or contact Kathy Chaston with CRCP at [Kathy.Chaston@noaa.gov](mailto:Kathy.Chaston@noaa.gov) or Anne Kitchell with the Horsley Witten Group, Inc. at [akitchell@horselywitten.com](mailto:akitchell@horselywitten.com).



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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 [Christa.Rabenold@noaa.gov](mailto:Christa.Rabenold@noaa.gov). The submission deadline for the next newsletter is March 15, 2011.