

# COASTAL MANAGEMENT NEWS

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NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal and Resource Management Director Donna Wieting and Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Marc Miller partner to implement the Coastal Zone Management Program in Illinois. Credit: U.S. Department of the Interior

## NOAA Approves Illinois' Coastal Management Program

On January 31, 2012, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management approved the Illinois Coastal Management Program (ICMP). With this new approval, 34 of the 35 eligible coastal states and territories now participate in the National Coastal Zone Management Program, a voluntary federal-state partnership that helps balance the competing demands of coastal resource use, economic development, and conservation along the coast of the United States.

The Illinois coastal boundary, which generally encompasses the state's coastal watershed, stretches 63 miles along the Lake Michigan shore. While its coastal zone is highly urbanized, supporting many vibrant lakeshore industries, it also contains many

popular recreational opportunities, some of the rarest and most diverse habitats in the state, and important cultural resources. Participating in the National Coastal Zone Management Program will enhance the state's ability to plan for and manage these diverse coastal uses and resources in a holistic and sustainable way.

As part of the national program, Illinois will also be able to strengthen partnerships with federal, state, and local governments and organizations. These partnerships will enable Illinois to benefit from the expertise, innovative tools, and other resources these organizations provide to solve important coastal management issues in the state, which will also benefit the nation.

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The ICMP relies largely on existing state laws and programs to implement its coastal management program. The governor also signed an executive order that outlines the state's coastal management objectives and establishes a technical advisory committee. The committee, which consists of relevant state agencies, provides a forum for state agency coordination on coastal issues and consistency review. The committee will also review project proposals for the ICMP's coastal grants program.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is the lead agency for the ICMP, which will focus on several key priorities for the state that align with the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, including: invasive species; habitat, ecosystem, and natural resource restoration; sustainable and economic development; public access and recreation; and climate change. The department's Office of Coastal Management will carry out the day-to-day program activities. This includes

providing technical assistance to help coastal communities address the priority issues and ensuring federal activities in the coastal zone are consistent with the state's coastal policies. The office will also administer the coastal grants program to provide local and state government agencies and nongovernmental organizations with funding to tackle priority coastal management problems.

A public signing ceremony to celebrate approval of the Illinois Coastal Management Program will be held in Chicago on March 9, 2012, at Loyola University. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco, U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, and other congressional members and dignitaries plan to attend.

For additional information on the ICMP, visit [www.dnr.illinois.gov/cmp](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/cmp) or contact Todd Main at [todd.main@illinois.gov](mailto:todd.main@illinois.gov) or Diana Olinger at [diana.olinger@noaa.gov](mailto:diana.olinger@noaa.gov).

## Michigan Shoreline Viewer Improves Decision Making

The shoreline along Michigan's sparsely populated Upper Peninsula ranges from high bluffs to rolling dunes to low coastal banks as it traverses approximately 1,475 miles along Lakes Superior, Michigan, and Huron. Most communities along the Upper Peninsula are small. They lack dedicated land use planners and easy access to current information about the region's natural shoreline features. Therefore, developing land use plans to guide growth and development along the shoreline has been challenging.

To help decision makers in the Upper Peninsula make more informed decisions along the shoreline without having to conduct time intensive, on-the-ground surveys of these relatively remote areas or spend time searching for additional data, the Michigan Coastal Management Program worked with the Superior Watershed Partnership to develop the Great Lakes Shoreviewer.

The shoreviewer is an easy-to-use web portal that provides professional, color, oblique photography for the entire Upper Peninsula shoreline. Decision makers can easily click on a segment of shoreline to view and download images of the area. The site also includes planning maps that provide additional information about features at the site, including soil type, presence of wetlands and critical dunes, and topography, as well as aerial photography.

The shoreviewer is already having benefits beyond its original intent as a local land use planning tool. Permitting staff for the Michigan Coastal Management Program and researchers

from Michigan State University's Center for Remote Sensing and GIS used the tool to help them conduct shoreline recession rate studies. Shoreline recession rates are important calculations that are used to help ensure homes and other structures are built far enough away from a shoreline so that they should not be threatened by erosion during the life of the property. The shoreviewer allowed the researchers to easily identify high-priority study areas by previewing where active bluff slumps were occurring before ever stepping foot in the field. The researchers also used the shoreviewer to locate nearby road-ends and determine

*Shoreline Viewer (Continued on pg. 3)*



*Sample image from the shoreviewer: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Lake Superior. Credit: Superior Watershed Partnership*

*Shoreline Viewer (Continued from pg. 2)*

suitable beach access points (e.g., are there high bluffs present that would prevent access to the beach?) when planning field work for the study. Given the remoteness of the area and limited access roads, being able to identify target areas and viable access points in advance saved significant time and cost.

The shoreviewer is also playing a role in promoting sustainable economic development in the Upper Peninsula by supporting nature-based tourism. Kayakers, hikers, and campers are excited to have this

new tool available to help them plan trips. Given the area's popularity for tourism, the Superior Watershed Partnership is planning another phase of the project to develop an application to allow kayakers and hikers to access the shoreviewer from their smart phones.

To view the shoreviewer, go to <http://superiorwatersheds.org/shorelineviewer2011/>. For additional information, contact Matt Warner at [WARNERM1@michigan.gov](mailto:WARNERM1@michigan.gov).

## Rhode Island to be Featured on *This Old House*

The executive director of the Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC), which implements the National Coastal Zone Management Program in the state, will be featured on the popular PBS series, *This Old House*, in early 2012. *This Old House*, a long-running home improvement show, filmed an extensive renovation project of a coastal home in Barrington, Rhode Island. One of the show's themes for the project was what it means to build in a hurricane zone and along the coast. Since the CRMC was involved in permitting some of the renovation activities, the show's producers approached the coastal management program to discuss the special building materials and practices that need to be employed to protect not only the coastline but also the structures and inhabitants along it.

The CRMC executive director met with the show's host to film a segment for *This Old House*. They talked about coastal hazards and what best practices the Barrington House homeowners, and all coastal property owners, should consider to make their homes more resilient to coastal storms, episodic erosion, and sea level rise. They also discussed the importance of other practices to protect coastal waters from polluted runoff, such as good septic system siting and maintenance and retaining adequate

buffers of natural vegetation along the shore. The CRMC executive director and television crew visited the Barrington site as well as several other coastal sites in Rhode Island to get a first-hand introduction to coastal processes.

The Barrington House episodes will also feature interviews with the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Landscapes Program and master gardeners to discuss the importance of using native vegetation in coastal landscapes because of their tolerance, habitat value, erosion control, and low maintenance.

Episodes for the Barrington House will begin airing nationally on PBS January 26, 2012. The CRMC segment will be part of the second episode, which is slated to air on February 2. Check your local listings for exact times and air dates.

For more information on the Barrington House project and to view episodes online after they have aired, visit [www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/tv/current-house-project](http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/tv/current-house-project). To learn more about the CRMC's involvement in the project, contact Laura Dwyer at [ldwyer@crmc.ri.gov](mailto:ldwyer@crmc.ri.gov).

## OCRM Posts State Consistency Lists Online

In January, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) posted state coastal management programs' federal consistency lists online. A key component of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the federal consistency provision provides states with a powerful tool to ensure that proposed federal actions that have reasonably foreseeable effects on the uses or resources of a state's coastal zone are consistent with a state's NOAA-approved coastal policies. An important part of the federal consistency provision is notification to federal agencies and the public: the federal consistency lists that state coastal management programs maintain identify the federal agency activities, federal license or permit activities, and financial assistance activities that are, generally, subject to state federal consistency review.

Federal agencies and the public now have easy access to state federal consistency information, facilitating federal consistency compliance. In addition, states are able to see what information other states include in their lists, improving sharing among the National Coastal Zone Management Program. OCRM will update the online lists as states make changes to them through the CZMA's program change process.

The state federal consistency lists are available online at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/consistency/fcstatel.html>. General information about federal consistency is available at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/consistency/welcome.html>. For additional information, contact Carleigh Rodriguez at [carleigh.rodriguez@noaa.gov](mailto:carleigh.rodriguez@noaa.gov).

## Hawai'i Helps Lay Foundation for Community Restoration

Years of agricultural use and encroaching development transformed Hoi, once a productive wetland track on the windward side of the island of O'ahu, into a fallow swamp, choked by invasive plants. Recognizing a need to protect the Kāne'ōhe Bay and a historical community fish pond at the base of the wetlands, the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, a nonprofit organization, and the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, the state agency landowner, turned to the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program to help them plan for the restoration of over 400 acres of wetlands and adjacent uplands.

As early as the mid-nineteenth century, traditional taro cultivation in the Hoi was replaced by sugarcane, pineapple, and rice. Cattle grazing followed. These more intensive agricultural industries disrupted the natural wetland hydrology. Erosion, flooding, and runoff laden with sediments and pesticides increased, threatening the fish pond, an important source of food and livelihood for the community. Polluted runoff also threatened Kane'ōhe Bay, which contains the only barrier, patch, and fringing reef system in Hawai'i. And, a former military dump site in the upland forest had introduced additional invasive species and sedimentation over the years.

Hawai'i CZM provided funding and assistance to the community groups to help them develop a master plan to guide the restoration work. The plan, which was completed in 2010, laid out three primary goals to restore the wetland to improve nearshore water quality, to educate and involve community members in traditional Hawaiian land stewardship customs, and to restore the historical agricultural-based industry. Specific restoration activities outlined in the plan include removing invasive species; restoring natural wetland flows; reforesting the uplands with native plants and Polynesian-introduced plants, such as breadfruit

and bananas, to be sustainably cultivated; establishing traditional taro ponds; and developing a community center to educate and engage the community in traditional and sustainable agricultural practices.

The community-based restoration project, Māhuhua 'Ai o Hoi ("Abundantly grow the fruit of the Hoi"), will provide food security, research and educational opportunities, and ecological, cultural, social, and economic programs to the community. It also supports the goals and objectives of Hawai'i's statewide Ocean Resources Management Plan, which calls for holistically preserving, protecting, and managing the state's coastal and ocean uses by recognizing the ecological connections between land and sea and by promoting collaboration and stewardship in natural and cultural resource management (see also January 2007 story in *Coastal Management News*).

The master plan has enabled the community groups to strengthen other partnerships and leverage additional funding and expertise to implement the plan. Other federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA's Pacific Services Center, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, as well as other organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the Castle Foundation, school groups, and others specializing in native plants and cultural heritage, have all contributed to the restoration effort. In addition, hundreds of community volunteers have participated in monthly restoration days to

remove invasive plants and plant native species.

While still in the early phases of restoration, the Hawai'i CZM-supported master plan has laid a solid foundation for the Māhuhua 'Ai o Hoi project and shown how an initial vision can grow into a community-wide effort. For additional information visit [www.kakooiwi.org](http://www.kakooiwi.org) or contact Leo Asuncion at [leo.asuncion@dbedt.hawaii.gov](mailto:leo.asuncion@dbedt.hawaii.gov).



*Community volunteers work in the taro fields as part of the Māhuhua 'Ai o Hoi restoration project. In addition to restoring important wetlands, the project will provide food security, research and educational opportunities, and ecological, cultural, social, and economic programs to the community. Credit: Kāko'o 'Ōiwi*

## Maine Learns from Pilot Ecosystem Management Project

The Maine Coastal Program (MCP) partnered with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) to carry out a three-year pilot ecosystem-based management experiment in Taunton Bay. Ecosystem-based management is an integrated management approach that considers the entire ecosystem, including humans. It seeks to maintain a healthy, productive, and resilient ecosystem that can continue to provide the services humans want and need. While often promoted as a preferred management approach, few examples of ecosystem-based management exist, especially at the smaller scale of Taunton Bay, a relatively small 3,500-acre embayment along the Maine coast.

Many in Taunton Bay were concerned that an increase in fishing activity may harm the bay's ecosystem. Since the legislature placed a moratorium on bottom-dragging fisheries while effective solutions to balance human use and ecosystem protection were developed, Taunton Bay was ripe for testing an ecosystem-based approach. The DMR, with MCP funding and assistance, led a project to test the feasibility of fine-scale ecosystem-based management within the confines of locally available resources and budgets.

The Taunton Bay project began in 2007 with the publication of the Taunton Bay Comprehensive Management Plan, which was developed in response to the fishing moratorium. DMR and MCP staff worked with Taunton Bay stakeholders to form an advisory group to guide research and implementation of the comprehensive plan, including developing goals, measurable objectives, and management actions. Fisheries harvesting was the most challenging aspect of achieving the dual goals of ecosystem protection while providing for human communities. However, through a deliberate, time-intensive, and iterative process of assessment, objective setting, planning, trial, feedback,

and adjustment facilitated by Maine Sea Grant, the ecosystem-based management approach achieved several noteworthy outcomes.

First, the DMR enacted rules to allow for a place-based system of user-defined individual quotas for several harvestable species within the bay, including urchins, scallops, and mussels. These new parameters enabled the fishing moratorium in the bay to be lifted. While the Taunton Bay-specific rules expired in December 2010,

other Maine communities have discussed adapting some of the lessons learned to support local community-based fisheries management elsewhere in the state. In addition, the advisory group's efforts to develop an ecological characterization of the estuary to inform management decisions have catalyzed increased ecological research in the region.

Learning from the Taunton Bay pilot, Maine found that while local ecosystem-based management has many benefits,

it is not easily achieved. The process is lengthy, intense, and expensive, requiring years of preparatory effort to establish conditions favoring success. Despite gaining consensus over long-range goals and agreement that regional ecosystem-based management is preferable to centralized, one-size-fits all management, the state lacked the long-term resources to support this level of intense management. However, as ecosystem-based management evolves, the experience gained through this project will improve and advance ecosystem-based management in Maine and elsewhere.

An evaluation of the Taunton Bay ecosystem-based management pilot is available at [www.maine.gov/dmr/council/tauntonbay/finalrptsowles.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/council/tauntonbay/finalrptsowles.pdf). For additional information, contact Matt Nixon at [Matthew.E.Nixon@maine.gov](mailto:Matthew.E.Nixon@maine.gov).



*Taking an ecosystem-based approach in Taunton Bay helped solve complex management issues. Credit: Maine Coastal Program*

## Coastal Program Managers to Gather for Annual Meeting

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management will host the 2012 Coastal Program Managers Meeting on Wednesday February 29, 2012, at the Hall of States in Washington, DC. The meeting will take place in conjunction with the Coastal States Organization and National Estuarine Research Reserve Association winter meetings earlier in the week and the Capitol Hill Coast Day and Coastal Celebration on

February 28, 2012. The meeting brings together coastal and estuarine 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. For additional information, contact Bill O'Beirne at [bill.obeirne@noaa.gov](mailto:bill.obeirne@noaa.gov).

## New Sea Level Rise Policies to Guide Coastal Development Projects in San Francisco Bay Area

Managing the threats from sea level rise to San Francisco Bay and the development along its shoreline has been identified as one of the major challenges the region will face in the twenty-first century. While exact increases in sea level rise are uncertain, scientists believe it is likely that the sea level in California will rise 10 to 17 inches by 2050 and 31 to 69 inches by the end of the century. With a mid-range rise of 55-inches by 2100, roughly 213,000 acres of bay shoreline, 270,000 individuals, and up to \$62 billion in development will be at risk from sea level rise-related flooding. While the Bay Area is already working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it is widely recognized that mitigation alone will not be enough.

Following its release of a regional sea level rise vulnerability assessment in 2009, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), which has permit authority over the bay and shoreline and, along with the California Coastal Commission, administers the Coastal Zone Management Act in California, embarked on an effort to help prepare the region for the changes to the shorelines of the bay and the related impacts. On October 6, 2011, after three years, three proposed language changes, 35 public hearings, meetings, and workshops, and a lengthy public comment period, BCDC voted unanimously to amend the San Francisco Bay Plan to update the 22-year-old sea level rise findings and policies and more broadly address climate change adaptation. The amendments were broadly supported by business, labor, local governments, and environmentalists.

The San Francisco Bay Plan contains the state coastal policies that BCDC uses to make permit decisions within

its jurisdiction, which consists of San Francisco Bay, salt ponds, managed wetlands, certain waterways, and land within 100 feet of the bay. The amended plan includes a new Climate Change section and revisions to four existing sections: Tidal Marshes and Tidal Flats, Safety of Fills, Protection of the Shoreline, and Public Access.

Specifically, the new and revised policies:

- Allow for protection from flooding and encourage innovative approaches to sea level rise adaptation;
- Encourage projects with regional benefits;
- Maintain case-by-case project evaluations to determine if project benefits outweigh the costs associated with the flood risk and to ensure steps are taken to deal with that risk;
- Encourage resource protection and habitat enhancement in undeveloped low-lying areas;
- Call for the consideration of sea level rise in project planning and design, where appropriate; and
- Commit BCDC to work with regional partners, local governments, businesses, labor, environmentalists, investors, insurers, and the general public to develop a comprehensive regional strategy that deals with all the impacts of climate change.

To read the resolution and learn more about the San Francisco Bay Plan amendment and new sea level rise policies, visit [www.bcdc.ca.gov/proposed\\_bay\\_plan/bp\\_amend\\_1-08.shtml](http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/proposed_bay_plan/bp_amend_1-08.shtml). For more information, contact Steve Goldbeck at [steveg@bcdc.ca.gov](mailto:steveg@bcdc.ca.gov).



*King tides, the highest seasonal tides, provide a dramatic visualization of what daily tides may look like in the Bay Area in the future as a result of sea level rise. Credit: Heidi Nutters*

## North Carolina Conducts Marsh Sill Evaluation

North Carolina has more than 9,000 miles of estuarine shoreline. Most of these shorelines are eroding, and the adjacent coastal region has experienced rapid population growth over the past decade, making estuarine shoreline stabilization an increasingly important coastal management issue for the state.

While bulkheads are the most common way of stabilizing estuarine shorelines in North Carolina, an increased understanding of the value of ecosystem services and the cumulative negative impacts of bulkheads on these services has the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM) considering alternatives.

Rock sills with marsh plantings (marsh sills) are considered better alternatives to bulkheads and other vertical shoreline stabilization methods since they can also help maintain, restore, or enhance a shoreline's natural habitats in addition to minimizing erosion. Despite these benefits, there are also concerns about potential negative impacts to shallow bottom habitats and other public trust uses. Given the impacts marsh sills may have (both positive and negative), their durability in the environment (50+ years), and the interest in their use in North Carolina, the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission asked the DCM to assess the performance of marsh sills already constructed in the state.

In response, the DCM conducted a qualitative technical assessment of existing marsh sills based on two criteria:

- Are the marsh sills performing their function as expected?
- What are the perceptions of the landowners who installed marsh sills, as well as the perceptions of the adjacent property owners, of this shoreline stabilization option?

Results of the assessment suggest that, in general, existing marsh sills:

- Have not presented a hazard to navigation,
- Provide erosion protection to the property on which they are installed,
- Are often built in combination with other structures (e.g., in front of bulkheads or in combination with groins),
- Support marsh grass growth and do not appear to create new uplands, and
- Promote oyster growth by providing substrate, and do not impact water quality.

Marsh sills require permit authorization under North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act. While many of the concerns associated with sills were not evident in the assessment, most sills in the study underwent an individual permit review process. This requires that a number of federal and state natural resource agencies have the opportunity to review and comment on permits on a case-by-case basis. The success of these structures may have been due, in part, to the site-specific design and coordination with these key agencies. The assessment confirmed that this is still the preferred way to permit marsh sills given the importance of individual site characteristics in the success of a project.



*Marsh sills can provide erosion and habitat protection in North Carolina estuaries.  
Credit: North Carolina DCM*

Other related research efforts are also underway. For example, with funding from NOAA's Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology, the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve and the NOAA Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research are examining the environmental and economic tradeoffs of erosion control measures. Together, these efforts will provide qualitative and quantitative information regarding how marsh sills are performing in North Carolina and how they relate to larger estuarine systems in general.

To learn more about the assessment and estuarine shoreline stabilization in North Carolina, visit [www.nccoastalmanagement.net/estuarineshoreline/estuarine.html](http://www.nccoastalmanagement.net/estuarineshoreline/estuarine.html) or contact John Fear at [john.fear@ncdenr.gov](mailto:john.fear@ncdenr.gov).

## CELCP Updates

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

#### CELCP FY 2012 Competition

NOAA approved a ranked list of FY 2012 CELCP projects in December. NOAA will use this list as a guide in selecting projects for funding within the amounts appropriated for FY 2012. The ranked list can be found at: [http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp\\_fundingop.html](http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html).

In FY 2011, CELCP received \$1 million from EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to support projects in designated Areas of Concern within the Great Lakes Region. The funding amounts that may be available under these initiatives for FY 2012 have not been determined, but are anticipated.

#### Recent Closings

The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa acquired the 88.6-acre Frog Bay property, which includes more than 0.25 miles along Wisconsin's Lake Superior shoreline. The property affords scenic views of the Apostle Islands Gaylord Nelson Wilderness Area and is adjacent to the Frog Bay estuary, which supports wild rice traditionally harvested by the Ojibwe (Chippewa). The Frog Bay site is located within the historic boundaries of the Red Cliff Reservation, but will be open to tribal members and the general public. This project was supported through EPA's supplemental Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding awarded to the CELCP program.

The City of Saugatuck, Michigan, has acquired 172.64 acres of conservation land along Lake Michigan. The undeveloped dune land boasts populations of prairie warbler and Blanchard's cricket frog as well as open dunes, natural jack pine forest, and hardwood pine dune forest. By acquiring this parcel, 3,650 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline and 1,650 feet of Kalamazoo



*CELCP funds helped the Red Cliff Band of Lake Chippewa acquire 88.6 acres along Frog Bay in Lake Superior. Credit: NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management*

River shoreline will be protected in their natural states in perpetuity.

The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, within Oregon's Department of State Lands, has acquired two properties, totaling 1,104.8 acres in the watersheds surrounding the reserve at the south end of the Coos estuary. See *NOAA Spotlight* on the following page for acquisition details.

The Town of Wells, Maine, in partnership with the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, has protected 105.55 acres of ecologically significant wetlands and associated uplands along the banks of the Merrilland River, a major freshwater source for one of the three estuaries within the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve. See *NOAA Spotlight* on the following page for acquisition details.

## NOAA Announces Regional Ocean Partnership Awards

On January 10, 2012, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and Coastal Services Center awarded \$6.18 million to regional partners through the Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program. This grant program was developed to advance effective coastal and ocean management through regional ocean governance, including the goals for national ocean policy and comprehensive ocean planning set out in the president's July 19, 2010, *Final Recommendations of Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force*. The Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program supported two categories of activities: implementation of a spectrum of regional ocean

partnership priorities, with a focus on marine planning activities and support for development and operations for regional ocean partnerships. Nine regions received funding: Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Alaska, South Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, West Coast, Hawai'i, and Pacific Islands.

For more details on the specific projects supported, see [www.csc.noaa.gov/funding/pdf/RegionalOceanPartnershipFundingProgramGrantAwardsAnnouncement.pdf](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/funding/pdf/RegionalOceanPartnershipFundingProgramGrantAwardsAnnouncement.pdf) or contact Liz Mountz at [elizabeth.mountz@noaa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.mountz@noaa.gov) or Becky Smyth at [rebecca.smyth@noaa.gov](mailto:rebecca.smyth@noaa.gov).

## – Spotlight on NOAA Resources –

### CELCP Acquisitions Benefit Estuarine Research Reserves

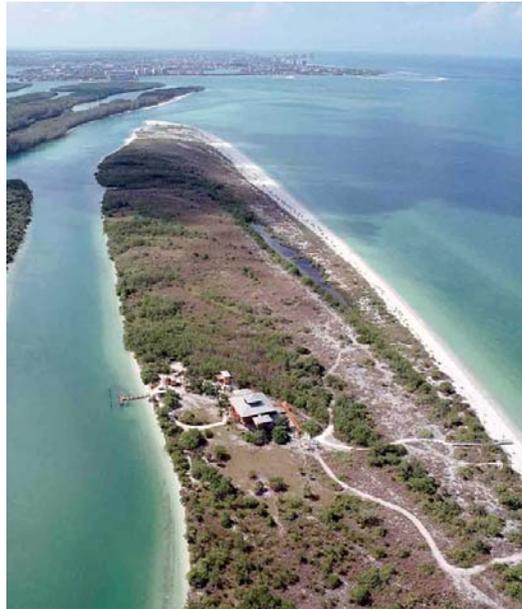
NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP, pronounced "kelp") protects coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical, or aesthetic values. In its ten-year history, the program has provided state and local governments with matching funds to protect nearly 100,000 acres of significant coastal land.

CELCP has forged a successful partnership with NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs), which were established for long-term research, education, and coastal stewardship. Beginning in 2009, as required in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, CELCP has allocated at least 15 percent of its funding for acquisitions that benefit the reserves. This CELCP funding enables the reserves to protect properties that, if developed, could alter ecological conditions at their downstream research and restoration sites. Three recent acquisitions showcase the complementary nature of the NERR and CELCP programs and how CELCP funding has furthered the stewardship mission of the reserves and the broader CELCP goals.

**South Slough NERR:** The Oregon Department of State Lands, acting on behalf of the South Slough Reserve, acquired fee title to over 1,100 acres of upland forest that constitute significant portions of the Wasson Creek and Hayward Creek watersheds surrounding the reserve. These watersheds are the primary contributors of freshwater to the South Slough estuary and are directly upstream from tidal wetland and native oyster restoration projects undertaken by the reserve. Acquiring these priority parcels has enabled the reserve to permanently protect upland forests and protect its downstream investments. The acquisition will enable

the reserve to implement watershed-scale restoration projects to improve declining fisheries and wildlife habitats and demonstrate integrated methods for managing and restoring coastal habitats.

**Wells NERR:** In partnership with the Wells Reserve, the Town of Wells acquired a property in the Merriland River Corridor in Wells, Maine, that will protect over 100 acres of ecologically significant wetlands and associated uplands along the banks of the Merriland River, a major freshwater source for the most pristine of the three estuaries within the Wells Reserve. This acquisition will connect over 600 acres of conservation land and will prevent future development on the tract, protecting the reserve's water quality from polluted runoff from impervious surfaces, septic systems, and other development activities.



CELCP funds will help the State of Florida acquire an important inholding within the Rookery Bay NERR on Keewaydin Island. Credit: Trust for Public Land

**Rookery Bay NERR:** The State of Florida, in partnership with the Rookery Bay Reserve, will protect a property on Keewaydin Island, a barrier island within the reserve. The beach-front acquisition will help preserve a significant section of the island, providing undisturbed nesting grounds and habitat for many species, including the Atlantic loggerhead sea turtle, indigo snake, and gopher tortoise. The acquisition will also fulfill several of the goals of the reserve's management plan by ensuring the long-term ecological integrity of the reserve and by providing unique opportunities for public access compatible with the reserve's mission.

For information on how the CELCP-NERR partnership may help benefit coastal and estuarine conservation goals in your state, please contact your state's CELCP lead: <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/media/celcpstateleadcontacts.pdf> and/or the manager of a reserve close to you <http://nerrs.noaa.gov/ReservesMap.aspx>.



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The triennial *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](mailto:allison.castellan@noaa.gov). The submission deadline for the next newsletter is April 15, 2012.