COASTAL MANAGEMENT NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 3, July 2010

Stranded oil on the North Chandeleur Islands illustrates how the spill is impacting coastal resources. Credit: NOAA

Gulf CZM Programs Respond to Deepwater Horizon Spill

When the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded and collapsed on April 20, 2010, many federal and state agencies and other groups sprung into action to prepare for and respond to the resulting oil impacts to marine and coastal resources of the Gulf of Mexico. The five Gulf coastal zone management (CZM) programs and NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) are engaged in response efforts at local, state, and federal levels.

From the onset of this disaster, the Gulf CZM programs have worked with response teams to implement area contingency plans and strategically place and maintain booms to protect sensitive coastal areas. The Gulf CZM programs' expertise and data provided response teams with critical information to guide boom placement to protect estuaries, salt marshes, barrier islands, and special areas such as National Estuarine Research Reserves. For example, the Louisiana Coastal Management Program developed and refined geographic data for all state, parish, BP, and U.S. Coast Guard boom locations that informed the state's boom plan. The Texas Coastal Management Program and the General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Division are also working with NOAA trajectory and modeling personnel to assist with daily oil forecasts for threatened shorelines.

As the geographic extent of the Gulf Coast threatened by oil grows larger, Gulf CZM programs are working with local communities to prepare for and respond to impacts. For example, the Louisiana Coastal Management

(Continued on pg. 2)

Page 1: GULF CZM PROGRAMS RESPOND TO DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL

Page 2: GUAM OUTREACH CAMPAIGN HELPS CITIZENS RESPOND TO MILITARY BUILDUP

Page 3: DELAWARE SURVEYS CITIZENS ON PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Page 4: NOAA RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE IN COASTAL AND OCEAN MANAGEMENT

Page 5: SOUTH CAROLINA ASSESSES MANAGEMENT OF SHORELINE CHANGE

Page 5: SAVE THE DATE FOR COASTAL ZONE 2011!

Page 6: CELCP UPDATES

Page 7: NOAA PROGRAMS TO CONSIDER CLIMATE CHANGE IN INVESTMENTS

Page 7: THE DIGITAL COAST PROVIDES THE COMPLETE COASTAL PACKAGE

South Carolina seeks to protect their shorelines through a shoreline change initiative. Credit: South Carolina Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (page 5)

Deepwater Horizon (Continued from pg. 1)

Program worked with parishes to form detailed parish protection plans. This involved meetings with key state officials, parish presidents, emergency operations professionals, levee district officials, and others to discuss strategies to protect natural resources and supplement response efforts by pooling resources, conducting coastal surveys, and coordinating with state and federal response efforts.

The Gulf CZM programs also organized many volunteers and worked with communities to conduct shoreline cleanup events prior to oil landfall. Pre-impact beach cleanups aid remediation by removing trash, vegetative debris, and other material that may become contaminated. Alabama Coastal Management Program staff organized 10 volunteer beach cleanups where 125 volunteers picked up between 4-5,000 pounds of debris from the state's beaches. Similar efforts have been conducted in Florida and Mississippi. Gulf CZM programs have also helped respond to public questions, including staffing state hotlines and command centers.

In addition to supporting protection and response efforts, Gulf CZM programs are involved in the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) activities. NRDA is a legal process to determine the type and amount of restoration needed to compensate the public for harm to natural resources and human uses that occur as a result of an oil spill. NOAA is coordinating these activities and working with state natural resource trustees, other federal agencies, and BP.

Gulf CZM programs have provided valuable expertise to the NRDA process by participating on several technical working groups which are assembling a variety of existing data on natural resources and human uses to establish pre-spill conditions. In Florida, CZM funding was used to conduct a sea grass inventory, which has been critical to the NRDA. A similar project also yielded benefits in Alabama.

Gulf CZM program staff are also contributing to NRDA efforts to establish and implement assessment protocols for shorelines, resources such as sea grasses, and human use impacts. These assessment protocols will be used in the NRDA to quantify natural resource injuries and lost human uses; a restoration plan to compensate for those injuries and losses will be developed by the trustee agencies.

The magnitude of this event has only increased the need for coordination and communication. OCRM staff has facilitated regular conference calls with the Gulf CZM programs, National Estuarine Research Reserves, Gulf Sea Grant programs, and the NOAA Gulf Coast Services Center to share information, identify needs, and provide the latest information. OCRM staff are also participating in NOAA oil spill efforts and representing the needs of its state partners at the federal level. For example, OCRM participates on the NOAA Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Team, which is playing a key role by providing coordination and expertise to address emerging needs.

As the Deepwater Horizon spill continues to affect the Gulf, CZM programs will play an active role in response and restoration. For additional information on the state coastal management programs and OCRM response, visit http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/welcome.html or contact Josh Lott, Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes Team Lead, at Josh.Lott@noaa.gov.

For the latest information on the Deepwater Horizon spill, see the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration Deepwater Horizon/BP Oil Response website at http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/deepwaterhorizon/ or the official federal portal for response and recovery at www.restorethegulf.gov/.

Guam Outreach Campaign Helps Citizens Respond to Military Buildup

Guam is facing unprecedented growth. The U.S. Marine Corps plans to relocate a significant portion of its force currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan, to the island. The buildup will bring nearly 40,000 people to the island, increasing its population by 20 percent. Approximately $15 billion in military construction is expected.

While the military buildup will provide many opportunities for Guam, its citizens are concerned about the impacts such a large increase in population and associated development will have on the island. The Guam Coastal Management Program has been working hard to ensure that impacts to Guam's natural and cultural resources, as well as existing coastal uses, will be minimized. (See also article in January 2008 issue of *Coastal Management News*.)

As part of its efforts, the Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans Coastal Management Program partnered with PBS, and the Office of the Governor to launch a public outreach campaign, "Our Island, Our Lives." The campaign informed the public about how to effectively respond to a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) the Department of Defense released addressing several upcoming military projects. The comments were collected as part of the campaign and submitted to the Department of Defense.

(Continued on pg. 3)

Guam Outreach (Continued from pg. 2)

The campaign included several key activities. Press releases and public service announcements on local television and radio informed the public about the DEIS and how to comment. A full-page ad and website also featured "25 Things You Need to Know About the Military Buildup," and a 12-page booklet that provided additional guidance on how to make effective comments was widely distributed. The campaign culminated in a three-hour live broadcast of a town meeting on public television. The show included presentations from government officials reviewing the document and encouraged those watching to call in with their comments.

In addition to reaching the general public, the campaign also targeted high school students. Youthspeak 2010 provided an interactive forum to familiarize students with the DEIS and facilitated discussion and comments from the students on natural resource issues. A follow-up, school-based program fostered classroom discussions between Youthspeak participants and their peers to reach the wider high school community.

The "Our Island, Our Lives" campaign successfully engaged the community by presenting information that was easy to understand and promoting discussion. The campaign ensured that the public's voice was heard. The public submitted more than 10,000 comments on the DEIS and high school students alone submitted 600 comments.

To view the "25 Things" document, visit http://bsp.guam.gov/25Thingsforprinting.pdf. To view the booklet providing guidance on submitting comments, visit http://bsp.guam.gov/Booklett.pdf. For additional information on the "Our Island, Our Lives" campaign, contact Vangie Lujan at vange@mail.gov.gu.

A high school student participates in the Youthspeak forum. Credit: Guam Coastal Management Program

Delaware Surveys Citizens on Perceptions of Climate Change

Sea level is rising in Delaware. It increased by over a foot in the last century, and the rate of increase is expected to accelerate in coming years. Over the next several decades, sea level rise may significantly impact the state's economy, coastal resources, and communities. To reduce these impacts, the Delaware Coastal Programs (DCP) Section of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control has undertaken a multiyear sea level rise initiative. As part of this initiative, DCP commissioned a survey to better understand Delaware residents' sentiments on climate change and sea level rise, recognizing the importance of public opinion and support in driving associated policy changes and activities.

Survey questions focused on perceptions of important environmental issues, knowledge and awareness of climate change, opinion on climate change and whether climate change is happening, perceptions of climate change as a threat, perceptions of efficacy of taking action to mitigate climate change, management strategies pertaining to climate change, and responsibility for taking action. The survey results suggest that most Delaware residents feel that they know about climate change, believe it is happening, and view it as a threat. Based on the results:

- Almost three-quarters of residents (70 percent) know a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change;
- A large majority of residents (70 percent) are completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening, and a smaller, yet still large, number (63 percent) are also completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising; and
- Most residents (77 percent) consider climate change to be a threat, describing it as a very serious threat (38 percent) or a somewhat serious threat (39 percent). About a fifth of residents (21 percent) consider it not very serious or not at all serious.

Analysis of the responses to questions about taking action to mitigate and reduce the impacts of climate change suggests there is more uncertainty among residents regarding how to respond to the threats. In

(Continued on pg. 4)

Citizens Survey (Continued from pg. 3)

general, most residents think that human action can be taken to help reduce climate change and its impacts, but opinion is split on whether action should be taken immediately or whether more research is needed before action is taken.

Of the types of actions that can be taken to reduce the impacts of climate change, sea level rise, in particular, residents favor cost-effective management strategies, such as avoiding building new structures in areas threatened by sea level rise and changing building codes and regulations to reduce flood risk. Less than half are interested in funding research, using dredged material to build up marsh areas, and elevating buildings using private funding. Even fewer support constructing dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads; elevating land surfaces; and allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland. The least popular activities include using government funds to purchase land at risk from sea level rise, elevate buildings, or purchase frequently flooded properties. However, residents are open to additional government spending on public construction projects that will help the projects withstand or accommodate sea level rise.

The Delaware Coastal Programs are already putting the data from the survey to work and are relying on its findings to develop a comprehensive statewide outreach strategy on sea level rise. In the long term, DCP also plans to repeat the survey to see how attitudes of Delaware residents about climate change and sea level rise may change over time.

To read the full results of the survey or for more information about Delaware's sea level rise initiative, visit www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/Pages/SeaLevelRiseAdaptation.aspx or contact Kelly Valencik at kelly.valencik@state.de.us.

NOAA Recognizes Excellence in Coastal and Ocean Management

On June 10, 2010, NOAA honored recipients of the 2010 Walter B. Jones Memorial Award and NOAA Excellence Award for Coastal and Ocean Management during a ceremony in Washington D.C. The awards honor people and organizations who make outstanding contributions to maintaining healthy coastal and ocean resources. The awards were created to honor the late 11-term North Carolina Congressman Walter B. Jones. As chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Congressman Jones was a strong supporter of coastal zone management.

Walter B. Jones Award Winners:

- *Coastal Steward*: Honorable Charles Albertson, North Carolina State Senator
- *Excellence in Local Government*: City of Astoria, Oregon; City and Port of Bandon, Oregon; Town of Hull, Massachusetts
- *Excellence in Coastal and Marine Graduate Study:* Jena Campbell, University of Texas – Austin; Lisa Greber, University of Massachusetts – Boston; Ben Landis, Duke University; Steve McMurray, University of North Carolina – Wilmington; Mary Turnipseed, Duke University; Erika Washburn, University of New Hampshire; Robin Wienke, North Carolina State University

NOAA Excellence Award Winners:

- *Susan Snow-Cotter Award for Excellence in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management*: Deerin Babb-Brott, Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management; Grover Fugate, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council; Becky Suarez, Elkhorn Slough NERR, California
- *Excellence in Promoting Diversity in Coastal and Ocean Resource Management*: Jonnette Bastian-James, Quinault Indian Nation
- *Non-Governmental Organization of the Year*: Port Orford Ocean Resource Team, Oregon
- *Volunteer of the Year*: Rich Hamel, Oregon

NOAA honors the 2010 Walter B. Jones and NOAA Excellence Award Winners. Credit: NOAA

For more information on the Walter B. Jones and NOAA Excellence Awards, visit http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/programs/ocrm/jones-noaa-awards.html or contact Patmarie Nedelka at Patmarie.Nedelka@noaa.gov.

South Carolina Assesses Management of Shoreline Change

Over two decades ago, South Carolina developed a comprehensive beach protection and planning program to sustain the economic, environmental, recreational, and cultural benefits of its beaches. In 2007, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (DHEC-OCRM) launched a shoreline change initiative (as part of its five-year program enhancement strategy under Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act) to reflect on the past 20 plus years of shoreline management in the state and make suggestions for the future. (See also article in April 2008 issue of *Coastal Management News*.)

The Beachfront Management Act of 1988 and associated regulations have significantly limited development and hard stabilization of the beachfront in many areas. Since its enactment, technical capacities have increased, lessons have been learned, and awareness of the complex issues surrounding beachfront management has been heightened. However, shoreline development continues to expand at a rapid pace, and while beach nourishment has kept pace with erosion in many areas, it may be financially unsustainable for some beachfront communities.

As part of the initiative, DHEC-OCRM established a Shoreline Change Advisory Committee made up of 23 experts from academia, government, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations to examine science and policy issues related to beachfront and estuarine shoreline management in South Carolina. Specifically, the committee was tasked with helping the state address future social, economic, and natural resource impacts of shoreline changes that may result from a continued (or accelerated) rise in sea level, development encroachment into the beach/dune system, shoreline alterations, and coastal storms. The committee released its report, *Adapting to Shoreline Change: A Foundation for Improved Management and Planning in South Carolina*, in April 2010.

In the report, the committee identifies four broad goals for improved shoreline management in South Carolina:

- **Minimize Risks to Beachfront Communities**—Proposes solutions to limit future exposure to losses of infrastructure, properties, and economic and natural resources that rely on a healthy beach/dune system and to reduce the need for erosion control solutions.
- **Improve the Planning of Beach Renourishment Projects**—Presents opportunities for improved coordination and decision making with regard to renourishment projects and other "soft" solutions to beach erosion.

South Carolina's estuarine shorelines are threatened by erosion and inundation caused by sea level rise, development encroachment, shoreline alterations, and coastal storms. Credit: South Carolina Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

- **Maintain Prohibitions and Further Restrict the Use of Hard Stabilization Structures**—Reinforces existing prohibitions on seawalls and revetments and recommends improved guidance for the siting, design, and use of groins, breakwaters, and temporary structures.
- **Enhance the Management of Sheltered Coastlines**—Presents parallel issues facing estuarine and sheltered coastlines of South Carolina and policy and management recommendations for addressing those issues.

Each goal is supported by policy and management recommendations that suggest potential improvements to current practices. Descriptions of these recommendations include rationale (problems addressed), existing policies and programs, new policy recommendations, new planning and management actions, general costs and benefits, and more.

South Carolina faces a growing challenge in balancing the protection of economic and environmental resources along its shorelines. DHEC-OCRM will use the goals and policy and management recommendations in the report as a new foundation for continued shoreline planning, policy development, and program implementation at the federal, state, and local levels.

The full report and public comments are available at www.scdhec.gov/environment/ocrm/. For more information, contact Braxton Davis at DavisBC@dhec.sc.gov.

CELCP Updates

NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

CELCP Funding Appropriations

The FY 2010 project grants, including the five projects funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, have been awarded. The FY 2011 competition is in the final stages of the merit and technical review process. The expectation is that a ranked list will be completed by August 2010, and that a list of CELCP projects will be available once FY 2011 appropriations are finalized later this year or early next year.

Land Acquisition in a Changing Climate

On May 20, 2010, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) brought together federal and state land acquisition program representatives, members of the land trust community, and other experts for *Federal Land Acquisition in a Changing Climate: A Roundtable Discussion*. Roundtable participants shared information on efforts to conduct strategic land conservation in the face of climate change and reflected on needs and opportunities for federal coordination on the issue. OCRM staff will continue to work with roundtable attendees on ideas generated during the meeting to incorporate them into OCRM efforts to consider climate change in coastal investments (see article on p. 7). For more information, contact Roxanne Thomas at Roxanne.Thomas@noaa.gov.

Recent Closings

Kiket Island and an associated mainland parcel totaling nearly 85 acres were recently purchased for permanent protection in Washington State with significant contributions from CELCP funding. Kiket Island encompasses high quality coastal tidelands, shoreline, and upland habitat and will become an addition to the existing Deception Pass State Park, increasing public access and resource protection for the Puget Sound shoreline. The property is being co-owned and managed by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Swinomish Indian Tribe.

Kiket Island, pictured here, is a recent CELCP funded acquisition in Washington State. Credit: Kris Wall, NOAA

2010 Land Trust Alliance Conference

Registration is open for the annual Land Trust Alliance Conference ("Rally") to be held October 2-5, 2010, in Hartford, Connecticut. Pre-conference seminars and field trips are scheduled October 2-3, and plenary and concurrent sessions are scheduled October 4-5. OCRM will lead two concurrent panel sessions—one on CELCP and the other on linking coastal smart growth and climate change principles with land acquisition efforts. To learn more or to register, visit www.landtrustalliance.org/learning/rally.

Save the Date for Coastal Zone 2011!

Coastal Zone 2011 will be held July 17-21, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, Illinois. In keeping with the location and acknowledging our changing coastal and ocean landscape, the overall conference theme is *Winds of Change: Great Lakes, Great Oceans, Great Communities*. Sessions will be organized around four conference tracks: Planning for Resilient Great Lakes, Coasts, and Ecosystems; Healthy Habitats, Healthy Coastal and Great Lakes Communities; Observing, Modeling, and Monitoring; and Vibrant Coastal, Great Lakes, and Marine Economies. Abstracts for panel, poster, special sessions, cafe conversations, and training workshops are due on October 8, 2010, and must be submitted online.

Conference partners include NOAA, the Department of Interior, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. For more information, as it becomes available, and to subscribe to the CZ11 listserve, visit www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm.

NOAA Programs to Consider Climate Change in Habitat Investments

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC) recently produced a *Programmatic Framework for Considering Climate Change Impacts in Coastal Habitat Restoration, Land Acquisition, and Facility Development Investments* as the first step in helping NOAA programs incorporate climate change into coastal investment decisions. The framework was developed by OCRM and OHC with input from coastal-related programs across the five NOAA line offices and describes how OCRM and OHC will incorporate climate change considerations in program planning and implementation processes to safeguard coastal habitat restoration and land acquisition investments. Where feasible, these investments will be used to enhance ecosystem resilience and/or mitigate climate change impacts.

The framework identifies informational and programmatic needs that may challenge full and effective implementation of the framework and advocates for new and stronger agency capabilities to address those needs. The next phases of the project include developing technical guidance and training for staff and project proponents.

In the short to medium term, OCRM and OHC expect to make interim changes to program operations. These changes will be undertaken in close collaboration with key partners and will be directed by the technical guidance currently under development. For more information, e-mail Bill O'Beirne at Bill.Obeirne@noaa.gov.

– Spotlight on NOAA Resources –

The Digital Coast Provides the Complete Coastal Package

Data and tools are a tremendous resource for coastal management programs, but only if the programs know how to use them. NOAA's Digital Coast is a good place to start.

First developed by the NOAA Coastal Services Center, the Digital Coast began as a way to provide not only coastal data, but also the surrounding tools, training, and examples needed to turn data into useful information. As the initiative grew and other organizations signed on, the holdings within the website began to grow, as did the scope of the effort. The Digital Coast's partnership group not only directs the content provided on the website, but also helps develop new content based on user needs.

Digital Coast content includes:

- **Geospatial Data**—Holdings include land cover, elevation, and benthic habitat data.
- **Tools**—These tools bring utility to coastal data sets and allow users to predict stormwater runoff rates, simulate potential impacts of sea level rise, map offshore laws, and much more.
- **Training**—Training is available to help coastal managers get the most out of these data and tools. Many can be brought directly to practitioners' locations, some are available through webinars.
- **In Action**—This section features concise case studies to show users how their peers are using specific data and tools.
- **Approaches**—Provides examples of Digital Coast products used to address a specific coastal management issue. Currently, the featured approaches are coastal inundation and planning offshore renewable energy projects.

Visit the Digital Coast website at www.csc.noaa.gov/digital coast/. For more information, contact Nicholas (Miki) Schmidt at Nicholas.Schmidt@noaa.gov. Digital Coast partners include the National Association of Counties, Coastal States Organization, National States Geographic Information Council, Association of State Floodplain Managers, American Planning Association, and the Nature Conservancy.

Newsletter contact:

Allison Castellan

Coastal Programs Division, NOAA

1305 East West Highway, N/ORM3

Silver Spring, MD 20910

301.713.3155 ext. 125

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 October 1, 2010.