

COASTAL MANAGEMENT NEWS

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Coastal Management Programs along the West Coast are working together to improve collaboration on coastal GIS applications in the region. Credit: Kris Wall

West Coast Coastal Programs Meet to Collaborate on GIS Applications

The Washington Coastal Management Program and the NOAA Coastal Services Center hosted the West Coast Coastal Atlas Workshop on April 23 and 24, 2009, in Seattle, Washington. The workshop brought together over 30 participants from Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California to discuss coastal mapping efforts in the region. Participants included the Washington Coastal Management Program, the Oregon Coastal Management Program, the California Coastal Management Program, state universities, four branches of NOAA, private consulting firms, and non-governmental organizations.

The goals of the workshop were to increase contact among existing and emerging coastal web atlas efforts on

the West Coast, inform each other of their future plans, identify regional data gaps, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

On the first day each jurisdiction/group presented their existing coastal GIS web-based applications. The second day of the workshop was devoted to identifying regional data needs and categorizing and ranking the needs for the West Coast. Part of this effort also included identifying additional cross-border collaborations, coastal mapping applications, and related efforts that were not represented at the workshop.

The group published a detailed workshop proceedings document, which provides links to the existing coastal atlas or coastal GIS sites,

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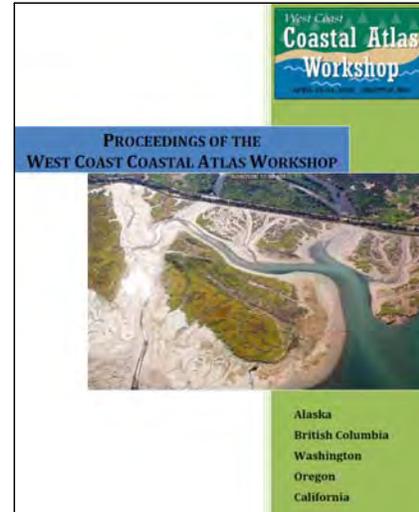
Some of the attendees at the Great Lakes Regional Meeting pose for a picture along Lake Superior (page 4)

Coastal GIS Applications (Continued from pg. 1)

summarizes discussions at the workshop, identifies priority data gaps, and highlights potential solutions and opportunities for collaboration.

To improve collaboration in the future, the group plans to establish a peer-review process for atlas data. They will also identify common datasets across atlas applications and develop a common organizational catalog for everyone to use to enable comparison of existing datasets and atlas features throughout the region and make datasets more compatible across applications.

The proceedings, presentations, and information on participants can be found at: <http://ican.science.oregonstate.edu/westcoast/>. For more information, contact Deborah Purce at dpur461@ecy.wa.gov.



Proceedings of the West Coast Coastal Atlas Workshop summarizes the workshop results and includes recommendations for further collaboration and next steps.

Alabama Supports Coastal Marsh Bird Conservation

Rallids, a family of marsh birds that includes rails, moorhens, and coots, face pressure due to habitat destruction, exposure to pesticides and other contaminants, as well as game harvesting. Despite these threats, Alabama had little information on the distribution of rallids along the gulf coast. Without good data, resource managers had limited ability to measure rallid population changes in response to habitat modification, climate change, and other influences and develop effective conservation plans to protect these species and their habitat.



The data from the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program rallid survey was used to develop a nationwide conservation plan for the king rail, shown here coming out of a marsh. Credit: John Trent, Alabama Natural Heritage Section.

In 2003, the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program (ACAMP) supported the Alabama Natural Heritage Section to conduct a rallid breeding season survey. The survey, completed in 2004, provided valuable data to further rallid conservation in the state and nationally and continues to influence current management decisions.

In 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed a nationwide conservation plan for the king rail, a marsh bird species whose population has crashed throughout its range. Currently, an estimated 95 percent of the U.S. king rail population occurs solely in the southeast, and conservation efforts in southeastern states, such as Alabama, are critical for maintaining the species. The ACAMP survey not only identified the current distribution of king rails within coastal Alabama, but also established a population baseline for future king rail surveys and management efforts in the state.

The ACAMP data was also submitted to Alabama's Natural Heritage Section Database and the U.S. Geological Survey's National Marsh Bird Monitoring Program Database, which serves as a repository for all regional and national marsh bird monitoring efforts. In addition, the ACAMP rallid survey data has been analyzed to address several research questions. The results have been published in three peer-reviewed journals and presented at numerous professional meetings.

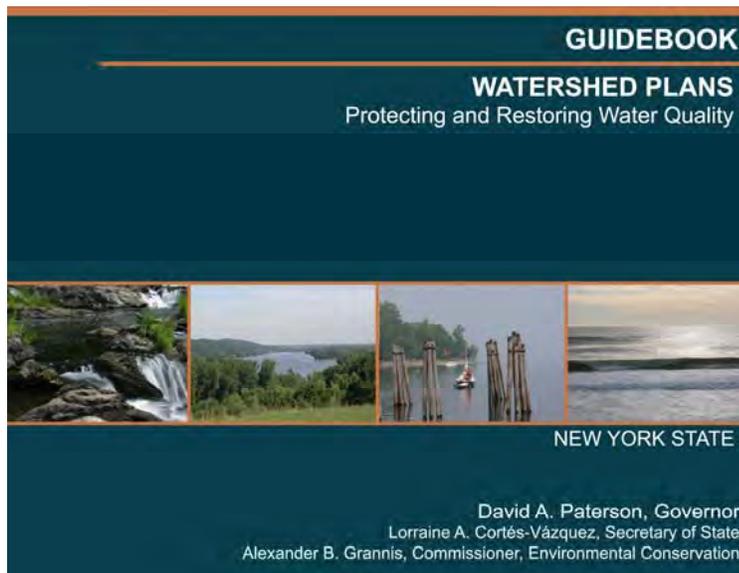
For additional information, contact Eric Soehren at Eric.Soehren@dcnr.alabama.gov.

New York Produces Multimedia Package for Watershed Planning

The New York Department of State Division of Coastal Resources, in partnership with the state's Department of Environmental Conservation, recently released a watershed planning multimedia informational package to meet the growing demand for assistance in watershed planning.

The multimedia package was developed to encourage and assist local watershed planning efforts and to help connect watershed planning experts from state agencies and local communities. It represents an integrated, comprehensive approach to watershed planning that relies on sound science and community consensus to set a shared vision for the future, identify problems, find solutions, and create an action strategy to improve water quality.

The multimedia package includes a guidebook, motivational video, and web pages. The guidebook,



The guidebook Watershed Plans: Protecting and Restoring Water Quality is one of three components of New York's multimedia package for watershed planning that was developed to encourage and assist local watershed planning efforts.

Watershed Plans: Protecting and Restoring Water Quality, summarizes this approach to help characterize watersheds, assess water quality and natural resources, evaluate local controls and practices, develop actions and recommendations, and create implementation strategies.

The guidebook builds on a shared approach to watershed management as a means to reduce nonpoint source pollution and protect water resources. It presents a flexible step-wise approach to watershed planning and implementation that highlights local and

regional successes in a series of case studies across New York State. The video was designed to encourage local governments and groups to form networks and strengthen partnerships with other state agencies and educational institutions in order to capitalize on the wealth of expertise available to protect and restore shared water resources.

For more information, visit www.nyswaterfronts.com/watershed_home.asp or contact Ken Smith at Kenneth.Smith@dos.state.ny.us.

Massachusetts Releases Draft Ocean Plan

In July 2009, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) released a draft Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan for public comment. The Massachusetts Oceans Act of 2008 required the EEA secretary to develop a comprehensive ocean management plan to manage development in state waters, balancing natural resource preservation with traditional and new uses, including renewable energy. Since May 2008, EEA, the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Program, two advisory commissions, and many other interested parties have engaged in an intensive scientific and stakeholder process to develop the plan.

The draft plan creates three types of management areas for the state's ocean waters: Prohibited, Renewable

Energy, and Multi-Use. The EEA held five public hearings on the draft plan during September and plans to release the final plan by December 31, 2009.

To learn more about the Massachusetts ocean management plan effort and to view the draft plan, visit www.mass.gov/eea/mop/. For additional information, contact John Weber at john.weber@state.ma.us.



The Massachusetts Ocean Plan will help minimize use conflicts in the state's ocean waters.

BCDC Announces Design Competition Winners

On July 15, 2009, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), part of the California Coastal Management Program, announced the six winners of its “Rising Tides” design competition. The six winners will share a prize of \$25,000. The competition sought new ideas for coastal communities to use in addressing the projected sea level increases for San Francisco Bay. BCDC received 131 entries from across the globe.

The winning projects approached the problem from varied angles. One proposed to increase public knowledge of rising seas through the installation of a temporary wall of light around the city, which would represent the height of future needed levees. Another winner envisioned a project intended to seal off the entire bay during extreme high tide events. The design competition was funded as part of BCDC’s current

Coastal Enhancement Strategy developed under Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act and supported with \$125,000 of Coastal Zone Enhancement Program funding from NOAA’s Coastal Zone Management Program.

To view the winners and other projects, please visit www.risingtidescompetition.com/risingtides/Home.html. Contact Brad McCrea at bradm@bcdca.gov for additional information.



FOLDING WATER: A VENTILATED LEVEE FOR A LIVING ESTUARY

Several of the winning designs from BCDC’s “Rising Tides” design competition. Clockwise from upper left: RAYdike enhances public awareness of sea level rise by installing a temporary wall of light around the city to show the height of future needed levees, submitted by Thom Faulders of Faulders Studio; Topographical Shifts in the Urban Waterfront, submitted by Wright Hauiche Yang and J. Lee Stickles, calls for changes to how the urban waterfront is used, including incorporating green infrastructure, to enhance San Francisco’s resiliency; Folding Water: A Ventilated Levee For a Living Estuary, proposes a dynamic levee system to protect the bay from rising water levels, submitted by Liz Ranieri and Byron Kuth of Kuth Ranieri Architects.

Minnesota Hosts Great Lakes Regional Meeting

Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Management Program hosted the Great Lakes Coastal Zone Management Regional Meeting in Duluth, Minnesota from September 21-24, 2009. Coastal Management Program staff from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York participated in the meeting, as well as representatives from the State of Illinois, OCRM, Sea Grant, Coastal Services Center, the NOAA Great Lakes Regional Team, the Great Lakes Commission, and the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR).

Climate change and marine spatial planning were two main themes throughout the meeting. The marine spatial planning session included a discussion of decision support tools to help plan for offshore wind energy siting in the Great Lakes. Meeting attendees also

had the opportunity to tour the proposed Lake Superior NERR site in Wisconsin. For more information on the Great Lakes Regional Meeting and to view presentations visit http://drop.io/GLRM_2009/.



Some of the attendees at the Great Lakes Regional Meeting pose for a picture along Lake Superior.

CELCP Updates

NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

CELCP Funding Competitions

FY 2010: NOAA recently completed a limited reopening of the FY 2010 CELCP competition due to changes in the program based on new CELCP authorizing legislation. This allowed states and territories to revise previously submitted applications to account for provisions in the new law and to submit and/or substitute new project applications.

NOAA received a total of 60 applications from 29 states and territories for this competition and the merit review process is currently underway. Reviewers include representatives from the coastal zone management and estuarine reserve community, NOAA coastal and habitat-related programs, other federal land conservation programs, and nongovernmental organizations. NOAA expects to finalize its ranked list of "ready and eligible" projects by early 2010.

FY 2011: The CELCP FY 2011 competition is anticipated to open in late December 2009, with applications due in spring 2010. The funding announcement for this competition will be listed in the Federal Register, as well as on the Funding Opportunities page of the CELCP website, www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html and on the federal grant opportunity website, www.grants.gov/.



With the assistance of CELCP funding, the California State Department of Parks and Recreation was able to purchase 43 acres along the California coast adjacent to Gaviota State Park in Santa Barbara County.

Selected Acquisitions

On July 6, 2009, the California State Department of Parks and Recreation purchased a 43-acre parcel along the California coast in western Santa Barbara County. This acquisition will expand the adjacent Gaviota State Park, which provides for passive recreational activities and coastal access along the Gaviota Coast. The property is comprised of chaparral, coastal sage scrub and grasslands. It provides habitat for the California red-legged frog, cactus wren, and two-striped garter snakes.

On August 26, 2009, the Town of Guilford, Connecticut, in association with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, acquired 624 acres for conservation along two miles of the East River, an estuarine embayment of Long Island Sound. CELCP helped acquire 534 of those acres and placed an additional 14 acres under conservation easement. The newly protected property includes mixed coastal hardwood forest, forested wetlands, open grassland fields, and tidal marshes that were threatened by development. The East River marsh is one of the largest and healthiest examples of tidal marsh habitat remaining in the state.

On September 21, 2009, the City of Ashland, Wisconsin, recorded NOAA's interest in 3.1 acres along the city's waterfront. Acquisition of this six block section of parcels will enable the city to develop a 2,255 foot "missing link" within the Ashland Waterfront Trail, increasing recreational access along Lake Superior.

On September 30, 2009, the State of Michigan acquired a 9.1-acre parcel along the Detroit River waterfront in the City of Detroit. This acquisition supports the development of the Detroit West RiverWalk, part of a proposed five-mile riverfront promenade designed to increase neighborhood connectivity and provide much needed public access to the Detroit River.

Obama's Ocean Policy Task Force

Recognizing the importance of ocean and coastal resources to our national economy and the need to sustainably manage them for future generations, President Obama issued a memorandum on June 12, 2009, creating an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (task force). The task force, comprised of 24 senior policy officials from across the Federal government and led by the chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, convened for the first time on June 22, 2009. The task force was given 90 days to develop a national policy and a corresponding implementation plan that "ensures the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources" as well as a "framework for policy coordination of efforts to improve stewardship of the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes." Additionally,



The Ocean Policy Task Force is developing a national framework for coastal and marine spatial planning to effectively manage our coastal and ocean resources.

the task force was given 180 days to create a "framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning."

On September 17, 2009, the task force released an interim report for a 30-day public comment period. In addition to the 30-day public comment period, they have also been holding regional public meetings around the country to provide opportunities for additional stakeholder feedback. Public meetings have been held in Anchorage, Alaska; San Francisco, California; Providence, Rhode Island; New Orleans, Louisiana; and several Pacific Island locations. The final meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2009, in Cleveland, Ohio.

The interim report identifies nine priority objectives to implement a national ocean and Great Lakes policy:

Ecosystem-Based Management: Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for the comprehensive management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the United States.

Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding: Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to change and challenges. Better educate the public about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes through formal and informal programs.

Coordinate and Support: Better coordinate and support Federal, state, tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the Federal government, and as appropriate, engage with the international community.

Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification: Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.

Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration: Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the Federal, state, tribal, local, and regional levels.

Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land: Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.

Changing Conditions in the Arctic: Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.

Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations and Infrastructure: Strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, and data collection platforms into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

The task force is continuing to refine the framework based on public input. Many NOAA staff, including several OCRM staff, are working with the task force to develop the framework. The final framework on coastal and marine spatial planning is due to the President on December 9, 2009.

For additional information on the Ocean Policy Task Force and to view the interim report and public comments received, visit www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/.

Date for 2010 Program Managers' Meeting Set

Mark your calendars! The 2010 Program Managers' Meeting will be held in Washington, DC February 10. The one-day meeting will focus on programmatic issues for the Coastal Zone Management and National Estuarine Research Reserve programs and will provide a forum to discuss emerging issues in ocean and coastal resource management.

The meeting will be held at the Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street, NW, adjacent to the Metro Center Metro stop (Red, Orange, and Blue Lines).

A block of rooms is reserved at the government rate of \$207/night. Registration for the meeting will be \$225.

Additional information about registration and the meeting will be available on OCRM's homepage (<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov>). In the meantime, please contact Patmarie Nedelka (Patmarie.nedelka@noaa.gov) if you have any questions.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in February!

– Spotlight on NOAA Resources –

Customizable Climate Change Workshop Materials Available

"Planning for Climate Change" is an interactive, customizable workshop that was developed for NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERR) to provide NERR Coastal Training Programs and other programs and agencies a framework for educating coastal decision makers about climate change.

The workshop provides some background on climate change science but primarily focuses on how to plan for and adapt to anticipated climate change impacts, including how to conduct vulnerability assessments and engage stakeholders. The workshop also provides information on how current state regulations address climate change and what other governments are doing to prepare for climate change along the coast.

A key part of the workshop are several interactive exercises that help participants consider possible climate vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies in their community.

Workshop materials, evaluation results, lessons

learned, PowerPoint presentations, and streaming video of the training sessions are available online.

While the workshop materials are geared to the Pacific Northwest, where two pilot workshops were held, they are designed to be adapted to other regions as well. The NERRs in the Northeast and Northern California are currently working to adapt the workshop for their regions. Plans to take the workshop to other regions are also underway.



Participants at a pilot workshop for "Planning for Climate Change" discuss how to adapt to climate change in their communities.

The Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington Sea Grant, the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group, and the King County Executive Office partnered to develop the training with funding from NOAA's Coastal Services Center administered through the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association.

To view the workshop materials and learn more, visit <http://nerrs.noaa.gov/Training/padillabay/project.html>. For additional information, contact Matt Chasse at matt.chasse@noaa.gov.



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The quarterly *Coastal Management Program Newsletter* was developed in response to state requests for assistance in improved communication/lesson sharing among the state and territory coastal management programs. Please let us know about interesting things going on in your coastal zone you would like to share with others. If you have any projects that you would like to highlight, please send a brief description to Allison.Castellan@noaa.gov. The submission deadline for the next newsletter is January 1, 2009.