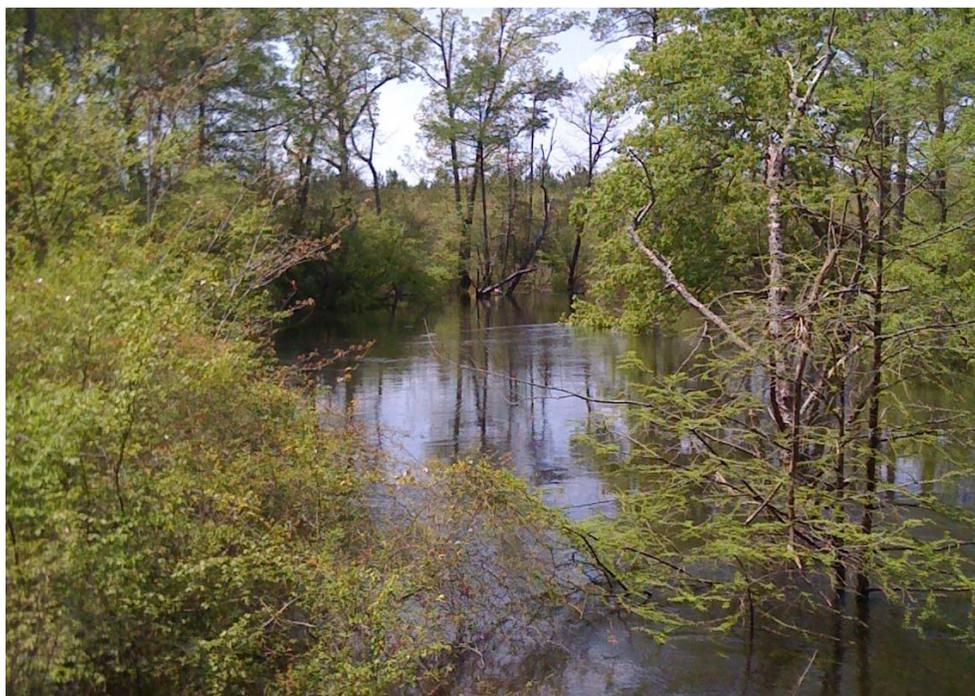


# COASTAL MANAGEMENT NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 4, October 2010



*The identification and protection of conservation corridors provide multiple benefits, such as habitat protection, drinking water supply protection, stormwater management, and recreational opportunities.  
Credit: HRPDC*

## Virginia Promotes Green Infrastructure in Regional and Local Planning Efforts

Development pressures, use conflicts, climate change impacts, and new and changing regulatory requirements are among the natural resource management challenges facing the Hampton Roads region in southeast Virginia. To help meet these challenges, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), in partnership with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program and a broad range of stakeholders, established a green infrastructure network, the first and most fully realized regional conservation planning effort of its kind in the state, and is actively engaged in an ongoing effort to incorporate green infrastructure into

local and regional land use and conservation planning.

The goal of the initial green infrastructure project was to identify and prioritize a network of valuable conservation lands in order to achieve multiple benefits for both humans and the environment. The origin of the effort can be traced back to 1992 and the Southern Watershed Area Management Program, a Virginia CZM Program special area management plan that resulted in a number of products, including an initial designation of conservation corridors.

Introduced in 2006, the region's green infrastructure network has

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*Green Infrastructure (Continued from pg. 1)*

recently been updated to incorporate new information and to enhance the usability of the network for planning purposes. To help planners identify lands for conservation, the update includes the following four primary components:

- An updated **green infrastructure network and change analysis** reflects new information as well as changes in the ecological value of the green infrastructure (as it pertains to habitat and water quality) over the last four years, noting where value increased, decreased, or stayed the same.
- A **vulnerability to development model** projects where future growth is likely to occur in the region (based on population growth, employment growth, distance to roads, and distance to existing development) and how such growth may impact the network.
- A **vulnerability to sea level rise assessment** is a preliminary effort to identify the areas that are most at risk from the combined effects of sea level rise and storm surge.
- A **regional parks and recreation inventory** centralizes information about conservation and recreation lands in the region that are vital to creating linkages between conservation areas and are already protected and identifies where they are located and where there are gaps in connectivity.

The analyses suggest that the Hampton Roads region is losing ecological value (although some areas have increased in value), several areas are vulnerable to development pressure over the next 25 years, a significant amount of green infrastructure is vulnerable to development, and climate change is a threat to the region and the network. Together, the network, the analyses, and the parks and recreation inventory can help local and regional planners make informed



*This map depicts the final green infrastructure network for the Hampton Roads region. The areas in green show land that is valued highly for both habitat and water quality. Credit: HRPDC*

decisions about how to allocate their resources and prioritize acquisitions and other conservation activities.

Using the Hampton Roads model as a starting point, the Virginia CZM Program has taken steps to expand the initiative to the other coastal planning districts. Efforts are also underway to refine the available data and provide more information on estuarine coastal resources (“blue” infrastructure). The ultimate outcome will be a network of identified and locally accepted conservation corridors throughout Virginia’s entire coastal zone.

*A Green Infrastructure Plan for the Hampton Roads Region* is available online at [http://hrpdcva.gov/PEP/PEP\\_Green\\_Infras\\_Plan.asp](http://hrpdcva.gov/PEP/PEP_Green_Infras_Plan.asp). To learn more about protecting green and blue infrastructure and related projects funded through the Virginia CZM Program, visit [www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal). For more information, contact Sara Kidd with the HRPDC at [skidd@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:skidd@hrpdcva.gov) or Shep Moon with the Virginia CZM Program at [shep.moon@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:shep.moon@deq.virginia.gov).

## Indiana Develops Onsite Sewage System Tracking Program

Each summer, thousands of people visit Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana Dunes State Park, and other public and private sites with access to Indiana’s Lake Michigan shoreline. And, every year, officials occasionally close beaches because of high bacteria counts. As in many coastal areas, onsite sewage systems (septic systems) are a contributing source of nonpoint pollution within Indiana’s Lake Michigan watershed. When properly planned, designed, installed, operated, and maintained, septic systems can effectively treat wastewater contaminants such as nutrients and pathogens. However, septic systems fail for a variety of reasons. Common limitations that contribute to failure

include poor soil conditions, inadequate maintenance, and illicit connections.

Indiana’s watershed management efforts have been hampered by the lack of site-specific information on the location of areas with high septic system vulnerability. When developing the Lake Michigan Shoreline TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load), *E. coli* loads were estimated based on census data and average daily discharges. The Lake Michigan Interagency Task Force on *E. Coli* identified the need for a database inventory for onsite sewage systems in the Lake Michigan watershed to assist with developing and implementing

*(Continued on pg. 3)*

*Indiana Tracking (Continued from pg. 2)*

water quality improvement projects throughout the watershed.

In response, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), in partnership with Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP), developed a web-based tracking tool for onsite sewage systems for use by county health departments in the Lake Michigan watershed. This innovative tracking tool, called iTOSS (Indiana's Network for Tracking of Onsite Sewage Systems), is based on the Wastewater Information System Tool (TWIST) developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Wastewater Management. Using TWIST as a starting point, Indiana streamlined and customized the input screens and altered the flow of data to more closely follow standard practices used in the state. In addition, the TWIST Microsoft Access-based format was converted to an Oracle web-based database to allow for easier county-level utilization of iTOSS.

The iTOSS tool provides for a centralized database and user interface containing parcel, facility, soil evaluation, onsite system, permit, and permit violation information. State and county health department staff can associate

permit violation and complaint data to a specific parcel, as well as attach site images and other supporting documentation. While the Lake Michigan region is the driving force behind the development of iTOSS, the remainder of the state benefits from the program development as well. Completed in early 2010, iTOSS is already being used by 12 Indiana counties, including all 3 coastal counties bordering Lake Michigan. In addition, two other states, including one Great Lake state, have expressed an interest in adapting the system for their use.

ISDH is working to further refine the system's query and reporting capabilities with plans for the development of a mapping module that will allow iTOSS data to be more easily imported into GIS systems and support modeling and analysis of cumulative and secondary impacts. The LMCP Technical Assistance Planning Program staff will also be utilizing iTOSS data to assist local communities with refining watershed management plans and developing local ordinances addressing onsite sewage systems.

For additional information regarding iTOSS, contact Mike Mettler at [mmettler@isdh.in.gov](mailto:mmettler@isdh.in.gov).

## NOAA To Designate Wisconsin National Estuarine Research Reserve

A 16,697-acre area of freshwater marshes, uplands, and river on the shores of Lake Superior in Wisconsin will become the 28<sup>th</sup> member of NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System in a designation ceremony at Superior, Wisconsin, on October 26. The new reserve is located in Douglas County, in the northwestern corner of Wisconsin where the St. Louis River flows into Lake Superior.

The designation means that the unique St. Louis River freshwater estuary will serve as a site to study natural

resource management techniques and apply what is learned to challenges facing coastal communities, such as maintaining clean water, protecting wildlife habitat, and preventing and controlling invasive species. The University of Wisconsin-Extension will manage the reserve and will work in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Superior to provide long-term facilities, staffing, and programming for the reserve. The Lake Superior reserve is the second to be established in the Great Lakes and the first in the upper Great Lakes.

Official designation of the Lake Superior reserve culminates a six-year process beginning with site selection and continuing with development of an environmental impact study and a comprehensive management plan. This multiyear process was done in partnership with scientists, agency land managers, public officials, and citizens representing local, regional, and tribal interests. The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program has been instrumental in the designation process, providing program staff support as well as funding for a feasibility study, outreach materials, and a Lake Superior freshwater estuary outreach coordinator position.

For more information about the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, visit [www.nerrs.noaa.gov/Reserve.aspx?ResID=LKS](http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/Reserve.aspx?ResID=LKS) or contact Patrick Robinson at [robinsop@uwgb.edu](mailto:robinsop@uwgb.edu).



*Oliver Marsh will become part of the new Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, which will be designated by NOAA on October 26.*

## New England Develops Regional Coastal and Estuarine Lands Initiative

In 2009, the New England Governors passed a resolution establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission on Land Conservation (CLC) to build a lasting conservation legacy for future generations of New Englanders. The governors recognized that New England's land resources face serious challenges from the impacts of climate change, sprawling development, and other economic, fiscal, and demographic changes and tasked the CLC with developing integrated regional initiatives focusing on the following priorities:

- Keep Farmlands in Farming
- Keep Forests as Forests
- Connect People to the Outdoors
- Protect Wildlife Habitat
- Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands

In the months following the 2009 resolution, the CLC established five working groups to develop each of these thematic initiatives. While each working group had a specific focus, a number of cross-cutting themes united all of the initiatives: support of working lands; enhancing economic, environmental, and social resilience; cultivation of a public conservation ethic; and



*The New England Governor's Lands Initiative will incorporate climate change adaptation strategies into CELCP and other regional land conservation plans such as those for this recent CELCP acquisition in Maquoit Bay, Maine.*

making the landscape more accessible to underserved populations.

The Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands Initiative was built from the foundation established through the NOAA-administered Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP). Each of the New England coastal zone management programs are participating on the group as are staff from the Nature Conservancy and NOAA. The initiative is working to develop a regional demonstration project that would integrate state CELCP plans, wildlife action plans, climate plans, and other plans to establish regional conservation priorities, strategies, actions, and measureable outcomes with a particular focus on incorporating climate change adaptation and wildlife habitat protection strategies into active land conservation programs.

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council will serve as the sponsor of the Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands Initiative's demonstration project, which will prepare an inventory and analysis of priority regional ecosystems vulnerable to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change and develop regional assessment criteria for identifying the highest priority conservation areas that will achieve protection of agreed-upon, regionally significant resources. NOAA and other federal partners have pledged assistance with planning and GIS-based mapping and analysis services.

The Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands Initiative's work to date is further described in the CLC's July 2010 Report "A Lasting Legacy: Recommendations of the New England Governors Blue Ribbon Commission on Land Conservation." This report summarizes the five initiatives as developed by the regional working groups.

For additional information regarding the New England Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands Initiative and the other initiatives, read the report, which is available online at [http://efc.muskie.usm.maine.edu/docs/2010\\_clc\\_report.pdf](http://efc.muskie.usm.maine.edu/docs/2010_clc_report.pdf) or contact Jim Connors at [Jim.Connors@maine.gov](mailto:Jim.Connors@maine.gov).

## Great Lakes Managers Meet in Indiana

The week of September 20, representatives from the Great Lakes coastal zone management programs participated in the 2010 Great Lakes Managers' Meeting in Chesterton, Indiana. Also in attendance were staff from NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, nongovernmental organizations, Sea Grant, and other entities.

The conference afforded attendees the opportunity to meet in-person with various coastal partners to enhance regional coordination and foster productive dialogue on emerging issues in the Great Lakes region, such as coastal land conservation, lake-based wind power, and climate change adaptation. For additional information, contact Josh Lott at [Josh.Lott@noaa.gov](mailto:Josh.Lott@noaa.gov).

## New National Ocean Council to Guide National Ocean Policy Planning

On July 19, President Obama signed the Executive Order establishing an integrated National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and Great Lakes. The order adopts the recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and directs executive agencies to implement those recommendations under the guidance of a new National Ocean Council (NOC).

The policy includes a set of guiding principles for management decisions and actions toward stewardship. These nine priority objectives provide a bridge between policy and specific actions. The NOC will be responsible for developing strategic action plans for these priority objectives that identify specific and measurable actions, performance measures, outcomes, key lead and participating agencies, gaps and needs in science and technology, potential resource requirements and efficiencies, and steps for integrating or coordinating current and out-year budgets. The nine objectives are:

### Overarching Approaches

- **Ecosystem-Based Management:** Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for 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 through formal and informal programs about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
- **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.

### Areas of Special Emphasis

- **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, Mapping, and Infrastructure:** Strengthen and integrate federal and nonfederal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system, and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

To find out more about these priority objectives, read *Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force*, which is available at [www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF\\_FinalRecs.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf). More information about the National Ocean Council can be found at [www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans).

## NOAA Announces Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Opportunity

In mid-September, NOAA announced the availability of an FY 2011 competitive grant opportunity to support the NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program. The national competition (which is subject to congressional appropriations) is focused on advancing effective coastal and ocean management through regional ocean governance and the goals for national ocean policy set out in the *Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force* (see article

above), which includes a national coastal and marine spatial planning framework.

The Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program will support two categories of activities: 1) implementation of activities that contribute to achieving the priorities identified by regional ocean partnerships while also advancing coastal and marine spatial planning as envisioned in the national framework and 2) regional

(Continued on pg. 6)

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*Funding Opportunity (Continued from pg. 5)*

ocean partnership development and governance support for administration and operation of existing regional ocean partnerships and for start-up costs of those regions beginning partnerships.

For purposes of this funding opportunity, NOAA will generally use the regions defined by the Ocean Policy Task Force for consideration in the funding proposals. A total of nine regions are eligible for funding under this opportunity. Where possible, NOAA has identified a potential existing lead regional ocean partnership or planning body for each region. Existing partnerships include the Council of Great Lakes Governors, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, Northeast Regional Ocean Council, South Atlantic Governors' Alliance, and the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health.



The nine regional planning areas as defined by the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force are illustrated here.

Regional ocean partnerships are voluntary, usually multistate, governor-established forums that develop shared priorities and take critical action on a broad array of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes needs, as relevant to their region. They have different structures and employ varied methods and approaches to enhance the ecological and economic health of the region. Their efforts involve nongovernmental stakeholders and all of the multiple state and federal agencies involved in coastal and ocean management.

The full grant announcement includes details on the funding priorities, eligibility, review process, and how to apply. Applications must be received by December 10, 2010, in order to be considered. The announcement and application can be found at [www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=57212](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=57212).

This funding opportunity is being jointly managed by NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Direct technical questions to Becky Smyth at [Rebecca.Smyth@noaa.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Smyth@noaa.gov) and general questions to one of the following regional OCRM representatives:

*Alaska/Arctic Region*  
Matt Gove  
[Matt.Gove@noaa.gov](mailto:Matt.Gove@noaa.gov)

*Caribbean Region*  
Dana Wusinich-Mendez  
[Dana.Wusinich-Mendez@noaa.gov](mailto:Dana.Wusinich-Mendez@noaa.gov)

*Chesapeake Bay Region*  
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*West Coast Region*  
Kris Wall  
[Kris.Wall@noaa.gov](mailto:Kris.Wall@noaa.gov)

## OCRM Announces CZM Information Systems Awards

As directed by Congress in FY 2010, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) held a competitive grant competition to provide state coastal zone management (CZM) programs with funds to modernize and improve their state CZM information systems to support coastal decision making pertaining to permitting and land use. The program was highly competitive: 21 eligible applications requesting a combined total of \$4 million vied for \$1 million in available funding.

Six applications were selected for funding, and on October 1, grants were awarded to the following (in alphabetical order):

- **California**—Modernize and Upgrade the Information Management Systems for the California Coastal Commission and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**—Modernizing the Permit Application Process and Permit Tracking Database
- **Georgia**—Modernizing Georgia's Coastal Permits Management Database
- **Maine**—The Maine Coastal Data Integration Tool
- **Massachusetts**—Expanding, Modernizing, and Improving the Massachusetts Ocean Resources Information System
- **Ohio**—Modernization of Historic Aerial Imagery in Support of Regulatory Programs

To learn more about the Modernizing and Improving State Coastal Zone Management Information Systems program, contact Liz Mountz at [Elizabeth.Mountz@noaa.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Mountz@noaa.gov).

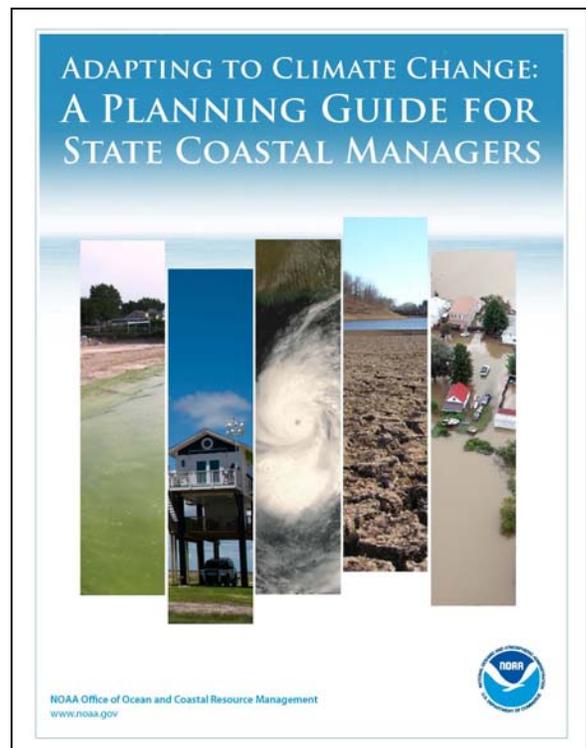
## OCRM Releases Climate Change Adaptation Planning Guide

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) has released a coastal climate adaptation guide to help state and territory coastal managers develop and implement adaptation plans to reduce risks of possible climate change impacts. *Adapting to Climate Change: A Planning Guide for State Coastal Managers* was written in response to requests from state coastal managers for NOAA guidance on adaptation planning.

Created specifically for state-level coastal management programs, the guide is intended to be an aid, not a prescriptive directive, for developing and implementing adaptation plans. States may use individual steps or chapters or the entire guide, depending on their needs. The guide provides science-based information on climate change to set the context for adaptation planning and includes steps for setting up a planning process, assessing vulnerability, devising a strategy, and implementing the plan. It compiles information from a number of sources and includes techniques currently being used successfully by coastal managers to address other coastal management issues such as coastal hazards, habitat loss, and secondary and cumulative impacts.

The guide is available online only at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/climate/adaptation.html> and can be downloaded in its entirety or by chapter. A separate 10-page document containing all the key resources

noted in the guide is also available. For more information, contact Josh Lott at [Josh.Lott@noaa.gov](mailto:Josh.Lott@noaa.gov).



The goal of this new planning tool from OCRM is to help coastal states prepare for climate change along their coasts.

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

### FY11 Ranked List of CELCP Projects

In early September, CELCP released the competitively ranked list of projects eligible for CELCP funding for FY 2011. Each fiscal year, projects are ranked for selection based on an independent, competitive, merit-based evaluation. In total, coastal states and territories submitted 42 proposals requesting over \$71 million in land conservation project funds for the FY 2011 competition.

This list prioritizes projects that are ready and eligible for funding in FY 2011, subject to the amounts appropriated for the program. The projects included have not yet been selected for funding. Once NOAA receives final funding levels for FY 2011, CELCP will use the list as a guide in selecting projects for funding under both CELCP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, within the amounts available for project grants. The list has been transmitted to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the offices of other interested members of Congress.

The list of ranked projects can be found at [http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp\\_fundingop.html](http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html) under the heading "FY 2011 Projects." For more information, contact Elaine Vaudreuil at [Elaine.Vaudreuil@noaa.gov](mailto:Elaine.Vaudreuil@noaa.gov).

### Recent Closings

On July 28, the town of Bayfield, Wisconsin, acquired 77 acres, including more than 2,200 feet of Lake Superior shoreline, along the south shore of the Bayfield Peninsula known as "Houghton Falls." This property will be managed as a natural area, and the public will be able to access the property for low-impact recreational activities such as bird watching and hiking. This project was supported through the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Lake Metroparks purchased the Shorehaven property in Lake County, Ohio, known as "Lake Erie Bluffs" on July 7. The 95-acre acquisition protects more than 1,000 feet of Lake Erie shoreline and provides habitat for seven state-listed plant species. This project was also supported through the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Douglas County, Wisconsin, acquired 3,995 acres in the Nemadji River watershed on September 3. This property includes more than six miles of river frontage



*The Houghton Falls acquisition was funded through EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's supplemental funding to CELCP. Credit: Travis Olson, Wisconsin Department of Administration*

and high priority mesic habitat as well as boreal hardwood forests.

On September 28, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources acquired the 6,860-acre Rayonier Tract, located along 12 miles of the Altamaha River in Long County, Georgia. This property, along with the adjacent 7,180-acre Rayonier Phase One Tract used as match for the federal funds, is part of a 41,350-acre contiguous block of permanently protected land located in the lower Altamaha River Corridor.

### 2010 Land Trust Alliance Conference

CELCP program staff led two workshops at this year's National Land Conservation Conference, also known as the "LTA Rally," in Hartford, Connecticut, October 2-5. The annual LTA Rally is one of the nation's leading land conservation meetings. The workshops focused on CELCP and principles to guide strategic coastal land acquisition, such as blue and green infrastructure and coastal smart growth concepts. More than 1,800 participants, including land trust staff and volunteers, land conservation professionals, and local, state, and federal agencies attended the rally.

## – Spotlight on NOAA Resources –

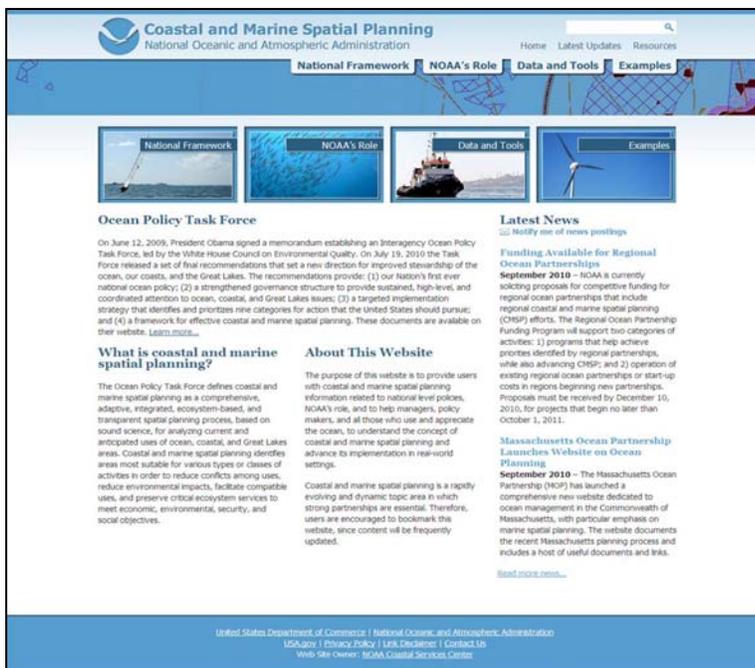
### NOAA Website Aims to Advance Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Coastal and marine spatial planning is a subject receiving a lot of attention lately, due in part to the world's increasing interest in alternative energy. This interest is reflected within NOAA and Congress, which is why coastal and marine spatial planning is an important component of the nation's new National Ocean Policy (see article on page 5).

The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force defines coastal and marine spatial planning as a comprehensive, adaptive, integrated, ecosystem-based, and transparent spatial planning process, based on sound science, for analyzing current and anticipated uses of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas. Coastal and marine spatial planning identifies areas most suitable for various types or classes of activities in order to reduce conflicts among uses, reduce environmental impacts, facilitate compatible uses, and preserve critical ecosystem services to meet economic, environmental, security, and social objectives.

A new NOAA website is designed to help resource managers, policy makers, and other stakeholders understand coastal and marine spatial planning and advance its implementation. Content on the site includes the following.

- **Data and Tools** provides links to some of the most relevant resources to help states implement coastal and marine spatial planning.
- **Examples** provides concise descriptions of where coastal and marine spatial planning is being implemented, how it is being done, and who is participating.
- **National Framework** summarizes the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force's final framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning and provides links to important documents such as the executive order establishing the National Policy for Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes.



NOAA's new Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning website aims to help resource managers and others understand and implement coastal and marine spatial planning.

- **NOAA's Role** describes NOAA's commitment to the effective implementation of coastal and marine spatial planning, detailing the general approach, resources, and capabilities NOAA will use to make this initiative a reality in the nine regional planning areas.
- **Latest Updates** helps users stay on top of the latest coastal and marine spatial planning news, developments, and upcoming events. Content is updated regularly, and users can sign up to receive e-mail alerts when content is added.

Visit the NOAA coastal and marine spatial planning website at [www.cmsp.noaa.gov](http://www.cmsp.noaa.gov). For more information, contact Brian Smith at [Brian.M.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Brian.M.Smith@noaa.gov). This site is continually evolving, and user feedback is encouraged.



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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 January 1, 2011.