



GULF OF MEXICO NEWS

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January 2010



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NOAA Gulf of Mexico News

NOAA's National Hurricane Center to Provide Greater Lead Time in Watches and Warnings

January 5, 2010



NHC Director Bill Read provides the TV audience with the latest information on Hurricane Ida, Nov. 2009.

[High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

[NOAA's National Hurricane Center](#) in Miami will issue watches and warnings for tropical storms and hurricanes along threatened coastal areas 12 hours earlier than in previous years. According to NHC experts, advancements in track forecasts are making it possible for forecasters to provide greater lead time.

Tropical storm watches will be issued when tropical storm conditions are possible along the coast within 48 hours. Tropical storm warnings will be issued when those conditions are expected within 36 hours. This is an increase of 12 hours from those issued in previous years.

Similar increases in lead-time will apply to hurricane watches and warnings. The hurricane watches and warnings will generally be timed to provide 48 and 36 hours notice, respectively, before the onset of tropical storm force winds. That additional time will also allow people preparing for the storm – securing oil rig platforms, getting food and water stockpiled, boarding windows, etc., – enough time to finish preparations and get to safe shelter.

“With increases in population and infrastructure along vulnerable U.S. coastlines, emergency managers need more lead time in order to make life-saving decisions regarding evacuations,” said Bill Read, director of NOAA’s National Hurricane Center.

These changes will go into effect for the 2010 hurricane season, which begins on May 15 in the Eastern Pacific and on June 1 for the Atlantic Basin. NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

NOAA Planning Contributes to Reef Construction in Louisiana

On January 18, the governor of Louisiana announced his support of plans to use concrete from the demolition of two Interstate bridges to create fishing reefs in Lake Pontchartrain and to help reinforce New Orleans' storm defenses. The reef plans call for sinking the rubble of two 500-foot bridge sections at two locations between I-10 and the U.S. 11 Bridge. The Office of Coast Survey assisted in the spatial planning of this project in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, and others. For more information, contact [Tim Osborn](#).

NOAA Gives Navy Marine Mammal Protection Measures for Exercises off the Gulf Coast

January 21, 2010

[NOAA's Fisheries Service](#) has issued regulations and a letter of authorization to the U.S. Navy that includes measures to protect marine mammals while conducting naval exercises off the Gulf of Mexico coast. The regulations require the Navy to implement measures designed to protect and minimize effects to marine mammals.

The Navy requested authorization for the activities under the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#) because the high- and mid-frequency sound generated by sonar, and the sound and pressure generated by detonating explosives, may affect the behavior of some marine mammals or cause a temporary hearing loss.



Right whale and calf.
[High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

NOAA's Fisheries Service does not expect the test and evaluation activities to result in serious injury to marine mammals. However, NOAA is requiring the Navy to use mitigation measures because exposure to nearby underwater detonations can injure marine mammals, and some injury could occur despite the Navy's best efforts. The proposed authorization allows for a small number of incidental injuries to marine mammals.

NOAA's Fisheries Service has determined that these effects would have a negligible effect on the species or stocks involved. Under the authorization, the Navy is required to follow mitigation measures to minimize effects on marine mammals, including:

- establishing marine mammal safety zones around each vessel using sonar and during underwater detonations;
- using Navy observers to shut down sonar operations if marine mammals are seen within designated safety zones;
- using exclusion zones to ensure that explosives are not detonated when animals are detected within a certain distance.

These measures should minimize the potential for injury or death, and significantly reduce the number of marine mammals exposed to levels of sound likely to cause temporary loss of hearing. Additionally, the regulations and authorization include a requirement that the Navy and NOAA's Fisheries Service meet yearly to discuss new science, Navy research and development, and Navy monitoring results, to determine if modifications to mitigation or monitoring measures are appropriate.

NOAA's Fisheries Service and the Navy have worked to develop a robust monitoring plan to help better understand how marine mammals respond to various levels of sound, and to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures. The implementation of this monitoring plan is included as a requirement of the regulations and the authorization. Additionally, the Navy, with input from NOAA's Fisheries Service, is developing an integrated comprehensive monitoring plan to standardize data collection methods across all of their U.S. range complexes and study areas.

The Navy has been conducting research, development, test and evaluation activities, including the use of active sonar and explosives, in the Gulf of Mexico for more than 60 years. The naval activities provide test and evaluation and in-service support for expeditionary maneuver warfare, operations in extreme environments, mine warfare, maritime operations and coastal operations. A variety of naval assets,

including vessels, aircraft and underwater systems support these mission activities for eight primary test operations including air, surface, and subsurface operations, sonar, electromagnetic energy, laser, ordnance and projectile firing.

This regulation, in effect for five years, governs the incidental take of marine mammals during the Navy's test and evaluation activities, and includes required mitigation and monitoring measures. The letters of authorization, which are required for the Navy to legally conduct their activities, are issued annually, provided the Navy abides by the terms and conditions of the letter, submits the required annual reports, and shows their activities do not result in more numerous effects or more severe harm to marine mammals than were originally analyzed or authorized.

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NOAA Administrator and Regional Partners Break Ground on Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center

January 22, 2010



NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco was on hand today to mark the start of construction on NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center in Mobile, Ala. The facility will be the regional home to a multi-functional collection of NOAA's emergency preparedness, response, restoration, and recovery assets and personnel in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Twenty million people living in the Gulf of Mexico's coastal communities face a number of environmental and economic challenges, ranging from hurricanes and the potential for resulting oil spills to coastal habitat loss and climate change threats," said Jane Lubchenco,

Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "To balance competing demands on coastal resources, decision makers need the science, information and decision support tools that NOAA provides."

The 15,000-square-foot facility will be constructed to withstand a major hurricane and devoted to conserving energy, water and natural resources while reducing impacts on human health and the environment. NOAA acquired the site through a long-term ground lease with Mobile County. A construction contract was awarded in September 2009 to Complete Building Corporation from Charleston, S.C. The building is expected to open in spring 2011.

"We learned during Hurricane Katrina that coordination between agencies and across every level of government is critical," said U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby. "NOAA will be able to consolidate its Gulf region disaster efforts in one location and better address the needs of affected communities following a disaster."

During Hurricane Katrina in 2005, [NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration](#) assisted the U.S. Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Gulf coast states with nearly 400 reported releases of hazardous materials and 16 significant pollution spills. The office also conducted offshore flights to identify and document sources of spilled oil and helped minimize damage to shoreline habitats during vessel salvage operations.

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration is a federal leader in preparedness, response, damage assessment, and restoration for oil spills, chemical spills and hazardous waste sites.

Working with federal, state, local and tribal agencies, its mission is to minimize harm to the environment when responding to an incident and protect and restore coastal ecosystems. OR&R works with federal, state, local and tribal agencies to develop best practices and decision making tools for cleanup and assessment of oil spills and hazardous waste sites.



Rendering of NOAA's new Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center. [High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

NOAA Responds to Oil Spill in Sabine-Neches Waterway near Port Arthur, Texas



On the morning of January 23, a collision occurred between the towing vessel Dixie Vengeance and the two barges it was pushing and the 807-foot tank ship Eagle Otome. As shown in this U.S. Coast Guard photo, as a result of the collision, the Eagle Otome sustained damage in the vicinity of the number one starboard tank, which was reported to be loaded with crude oil.

Staff from the Office of Response and Restoration are on-scene near Port Arthur, Texas, where a major oil spill occurred on Saturday, January 23. That morning, the towing vessel Dixie Vengeance and the two barges it was pushing collided with the tank ship Eagle Otome, ripping a 15-foot-by-8-foot hole in the tanker's starboard cargo tank. As a result of the damage, the Eagle Otome spilled some 10,000 barrels (420,000 gallons) of crude oil into the Sabine-Neches Waterway, which runs along the border between Texas and Louisiana from Beaumont, Texas, to the Gulf of Mexico.

The barges, which were loaded with partially refined oil, were damaged but did not release any material. The Eagle Otome, a double-hulled tank ship owned by a Malaysian global shipping company, was carrying 570,000 barrels (24 million gallons) of crude oil to the Exxon Mobil refinery in Beaumont when the incident occurred.

The U.S. Coast Guard, which heads up the Unified Command to oversee the aftermath of the spill, closed the Sabine-Neches Waterway to all commercial and recreational vessels. The heavily traveled waterway is a vital link in the nation's oil refining chain, representing approximately 6.5 percent of the nation's gasoline refining capacity; thus, reopening the route and restoring commerce are top priorities.

Following the collision, local law enforcement agencies confirmed reports of noxious fumes coming from

both vessels, and the U.S. Coast Guard informed NOAA that hydrogen sulfide gas may have been released from the spilled oil. Because breathing high levels of this gas can be lethal, residents and workers in and around the port were evacuated as a precaution. The levels of hydrogen sulfide were later determined not to be hazardous and the mandatory evacuation was lifted at 6 p.m. Saturday evening. When the U.S. Coast Guard is the Federal On-Scene Coordinator at the site of an oil spill or other HAZMAT incident, the Office of Response and Restoration provides scientific support that includes predicting where the oil is going and what its effects may be, identifying resources at risk, providing weather forecasts, planning for shoreline cleanup, and participating in over flights to collect data and video footage.

NOAA will also coordinate with other state and federal trustees to assess injuries to natural resources and lost human uses. The trustees' activities lay the foundation for restoration plans, and ultimately help the federal government determine whether the parties responsible for the spill should be required to pay damages toward restoring the injured resource.

Enhanced Web site for NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System

Based on experience and feedback obtained from five successful years of operational harmful algal bloom (HAB) forecasting, the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) has redesigned and enhanced NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System (HAB-OFS) [Web site](#), providing an abundance of HAB-related information to bulletin subscribers and the public. The Forecast System provides information on the location, extent, and potential for growth or movement of HABs in the Gulf of Mexico. The redesigned site continues to post daily HAB Conditions Reports as well as general HAB-OFS Bulletin information. HAB-OFS is a one-NOAA collaboration effort between CO-OPS, the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, and formerly the NOAA Coastal Services Center within NOS as well as the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service's CoastWatch Program. For more information, contact the [NOAA HAB Team](#).

Alabama Counties Use Habitat Mapper to Visualize Coastal Conservation Priorities

On January 7, people from more than 25 conservation organizations in coastal Alabama met to learn about the Habitat Mapper, an online conservation planning tool developed for Mobile and Baldwin Counties. The Habitat Mapper allows users to incorporate information about the natural environment and conservation goals into a mapping environment. The resulting map is helpful when making conservation project priorities. NOAA's Coastal Services Center and Office of Habitat Conservation worked collaboratively with The Nature Conservancy and the National Estuary Program to bring this opportunity to Alabama. For more information, contact [Nancy Cofer-Shabica](#) or [Lauren Long](#).

Gulf of Mexico Foundation Announces Nine Coastal Habitat Restoration Projects in Gulf and Caribbean

The Gulf of Mexico Community-based Restoration Partnership (GCRP) enters its ninth year of coastal habitat restoration in 2010, providing funding for seven new projects around the Gulf of Mexico and two in the Caribbean Sea. The GCRP is a regional partnership between EPA, NOAA, and the Foundation. The GCRP funds citizen-driven habitat restoration projects which benefit living marine resources and foster local stewardship throughout the Gulf of Mexico region. Grass-roots level partnerships are formed

which have a lasting positive effect on the communities. Since 2001, the restoration projects have restored thousands of acres of economically important habitat and marine resources, generated millions of dollars in matching funds, and have provided educational opportunities for teachers, students and community members. Over 70 projects have been funded over the life of the partnership, and the projects listed below with commence in January 2010:

| Grantee | Project | Location | Habitat Restored |
|---|---|--|---|
| Village of Tiki Island | Tiki Island Maintenance Dredging & Beneficial Use Project | TX, Galveston County, Village of Tiki Island | 8 acres Marshland habitat |
| Department of Biological Sciences @ Nicholls State University (NSU) | Bay Champagne Dune & Beach Community Restoration | LA, Lafourche Parish, Port Fourchon | 114 acres of Beach and Dune habitat (1190 acres beach, marsh, mangrove benefited) |
| Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs | Jefferson Parish Lafitte Terrace Planting | LA, Jefferson Parish, south of Jean Lafitte | 6.6 acres of <i>Spartina patens</i> habitat |
| Mississippi Department of Marine Resources | Deer Island Restoration Project | MS, Harrison County, Biloxi | 800 linear feet shoreline protected, benefiting 50 acres wetland/marsh habitat |
| Florida Department of Environmental Protection | Dune Restoration-Gulf Islands National Seashore | FL, Escambia County, Pensacola | 5 acres of fore and back dunal systems |
| Tampa Bay Watch, Inc. | Bay Grasses in Classes Wetland Nursery Program | FL, Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee Counties | 3 acres of wetland habitat |
| The Ocean Foundation | Restore-A-Scar Seagrass Restoration of Propeller Scars | FL, Tampa Bay | 7,000 linear feet of prop scars, benefiting 50 acres of seagrass meadow |
| G Works Inc. & El Corredor del Yaguazo | Mangrove Restoration-Restoring Life | Municipality of Catano, Juana Matos, and Peninsula La Esperanza & Islote | 1 linear mile coastal mangrove habitat and 1.5 acres herbaceous wetland/marsh |
| St. Croix Environmental Association (S.E.A.) | Southgate Coastal Mangrove Habitat Restoration Project | St. Croix, USVI, Southgate Coastal Preserve | 30 acres wetland and beach habitat restored, 2,000 linear feet beach/wetland edge protected |

More information about the Gulf of Mexico Community-based Restoration Partnership is at:

www.gulfmex.org.

Other NOAA News

NOAA Produces Images of Haiti for First Responders

January 19, 2010

A specially equipped NOAA jet conducted aerial surveys of earthquake-stricken Haiti on Jan. 17 and 18 as part of the agency's effort to help responders assess damage and plan recovery efforts. The aircraft is equipped with high-resolution digital cameras and other sensors that collect data vital to disaster response, scientific research and environmental resource management efforts.

"NOAA maintains some of the nation's premier emergency response services," said Jane Lubchenco, undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "We are proud to be of service in offering experts and expertise to help the people of Haiti during this heartbreaking time."

Other facets of NOAA's multi-tiered disaster response team are standing by, ready to conduct emergency maritime surveys and damage assessment imagery of key Haitian ports if requested. NOAA teams are often sent to ensure that waterways are safe for navigation and the transport of relief supplies. They also help assess chemical and oil spills and assist in recovery efforts.

Based at the [NOAA Aircraft Operations Center](#) in Tampa, Fla., the Cessna Citation II is a versatile twin-engine jet aircraft modified for acquiring remote sensing imagery, primarily in support of the [NOAA National Geodetic Survey](#). The Citation is just part of NOAA's fleet of aircraft and ships operated by the NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. The aircraft scheduled to replace the Citation, a King Air 350ER twin-engine turboprop, is being prepared for additional aerial surveys of Haiti.

NOAA provides this type of support in domestic emergencies, such as hurricanes and tsunamis. In international events, NOAA works closely with the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, Department of the Interior and others to provide coordinated remote sensing response capabilities. NOAA has also partnered with Google and Environmental Systems Research Institute. Google produced a montage of NOAA's imagery on Google Earth to make the images more publicly accessible.

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The data is available to disaster responders and the public at: <http://hdds.usgs.gov/hdds/> and http://ngs.woc.noaa.gov/storms/haiti_eq/. Google Earth link provided by Google of the NOAA imagery: http://mw1.google.com/mw-earth-vectordb/haiti_noaa_jan17thv4/doc.kml and NOAA before and after aerial photos are available at http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100119_haiti.html.

Picture This: NOAA, Google Join Forces to Visualize Scientific Data

January 25, 2010

[NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research](#) and Google have signed a cooperative research and development agreement outlining how they will work together to create state-of-the-art visualizations of scientific data to illustrate how our planet works.

"It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Here, we think NOAA's billions of bits of data are worth thousands of pictures," said Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D., NOAA assistant administrator for oceanic and atmospheric research. "Through this agreement, Google's technical expertise will help to improve access to NOAA data in ways that allow the scientific community and the public to better use our information to understand earth science and make informed decisions."

Under the agreement, NOAA and Google plan to work together on research and development to join NOAA's oceanographic, meteorological, biological, and climatological data with Google's software capabilities. The wide availability of Google's Internet tools has the potential to bring visualizations of NOAA data to new audiences around the world.

The agreement lists six topic areas in which NOAA and Google may pursue cooperative research projects of mutual interest:

- Engaging the public in ongoing and historic scientific expeditions including those of the NOAA ship [Okeanos Explorer](#);
- Compiling and improving [bathymetric datasets](#) to display in Google Earth and make available for downloading;
- Expanding NOAA efforts to publish oceanographic data, especially data from the NOAA-led [Integrated Ocean Observing System](#);
- Expanding NOAA efforts to publish climate data, especially data from the [greenhouse gas monitoring system](#);
- Increasing the amount of data available for [NOAA's Science on a Sphere](#), an educational Earth science display system, [<http://sos.noaa.gov/>] by adapting it to display files in the Keyhole Markup Language, the file format Google Earth and Google Maps use for geographic data; and
- Providing interactive access to marine zoning and regulatory information concerning regions such as continental shelf boundaries and marine protected areas.

The new cooperative research and development agreement will allow NOAA to pursue projects that are beyond the limits of its in-house technological resources. It gives Google the opportunity to take on technical challenges and develop new ways to display information. NOAA and Google previously worked together to bring a Great Lakes feature to Google Earth and to include NOAA information in the Ocean in Google Earth tool.

Science for Marine Spatial Planning – Symposium Presentations Now Available

On November 16th the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries hosted "Science for Marine Spatial Planning - A Symposium." The goal of this symposium was to provide an appreciation of practical examples of natural and socioeconomic science that has been applied to coastal and marine spatial planning in the past.

Presenters from programs with experience in spatial problem solving and management described issue-driven projects for place-based management. They highlighted projects that have increased the protection of whales in New England; proven the effectiveness and stakeholder satisfaction with marine reserves in

the Florida Keys; protected sensitive resources in the northwest Gulf of Mexico from potentially harmful effects of oil and gas production activities; and used integrated assessments to make boundary decisions for protected areas in the southwest and to restore habitats and fishery resources in the northwest.

Attendees also heard provocative talks from featured speakers on the processes associated with successful spatial planning and the need to consider the impacts of variables that act over vastly different spatial and temporal scales. They were also challenged to consider new ways of decision-making that would allow for optimization of the tradeoffs required when making space use choices. Nearly 300 people from NOAA, other federal agencies, and numerous non-governmental organizations attended the symposium (about half attended in person and half via a Webinar webcast). Please visit this site again soon for more updates, including copies of the various presentations that were given.

[Click here](#) (pdf) for the MSP Program which includes the agenda, presentation abstracts, and presenter biographies. [Click here](#) for the MSP Symposium flyer.

Marine Spatial Planning Stakeholder Analysis Report Released

The NOAA Coastal Services Center recently contracted with Eastern Research Group (ERG) to conduct a marine spatial planning (MSP) stakeholder analysis. The purpose of this project was to help NOAA gain a better understanding of current stakeholder use, the level of stakeholder collaboration (on specific MSP projects as well as possible regional applications), and potential future use of MSP tools. The information in the resulting report was gleaned from literature reviews, Web searches, and interviews with stakeholders from across the NOAA coastal regions.

[The report](#) provides current information on the audiences involved in coastal and marine spatial planning. In addition, the material is organized by NOAA-defined regions, making information easily accessible for a specific state or area. The report discusses several common themes, including: governance; the scale of MSP; MSP drivers; data resources; stakeholder engagement and support; and the future of MSP.

January Coastal Management News Available

The January 2010 edition of Coastal Management News is now available. The newsletter can be found [online](#). Inside you'll find the following stories:

- Texas Continues to Help Ike Communities Recover
- Oregon Amends Territorial Sea Plan
- Maine Develops Climate Change Documentary
- Washington Releases New Guidance on No Net Loss
- Southeast Governors Partner in South Atlantic Alliance
- MARCO Holds Stakeholder Conference
- Regional CZM Meetings Go Virtual
- Ocean Task Force Releases Marine Spatial Planning Framework
- CELCP Updates
- OCRM Moves Forward on OTEC Licensing Program
- North Carolina Hosts Forum on Sea Level Rise
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan Gaining Momentum

For more information contact Allison.Castellan@noaa.gov.

CZMA Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update

The Coastal Programs Division of NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management distributes the CZMA Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update to keep state and territory coastal program managers and climate change/coastal hazards staff informed about climate change (as it pertains to coastal hazards) and coastal hazards activities. If you would like to subscribe, please e-mail christa.rabenold@noaa.gov. To read this and previous issues, visit the E-News Update archive online at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/climateneewsletter.html>.

NOAA's Sea Grant Awards Eight 'Climate Engagement' Mini-Grants

Coastal residents, businesses and decision-makers around the country will consider how their communities can adapt to climate change through eight newly awarded NOAA National Sea Grant College Program grants. Each of these \$25,000 climate engagement mini-grants will support projects focused on preparing for changing climate conditions. The projects will be led by principal investigators from local Sea Grant programs and NOAA Regional Collaboration Teams in eight regions including Alaska, the Pacific Islands and sections of the mainland United States.

"Since our Sea Grant researchers and extension agents serve the local coastal communities in which they live, Sea Grant is well-suited to connect NOAA science to the needs of local coastal communities," said Leon Cammen, Ph.D., director of the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program. "Issues related to climate change are a Sea Grant priority."

The Mini-Grants will fund projects in the following regions:

Alaska Region – To produce a short video on the effects of climate change on Alaska and how Alaska marine-dependent communities can plan for adaptation. The video will be a focal point of community workshops around the state and will be shown on statewide television and on the Internet. Principal investigators: Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Amy Holman, NOAA Alaska Regional Coordinator.

Central Region – To sponsor the Native Peoples and Native Homelands II Workshop to give NOAA and Sea Grant opportunity to engage Native American, Alaskan and Hawaiian people on climate variability and impacts on tribal communities. Principal investigators: Bethany Hale, NOAA Central Regional Coordinator and Penelope Dalton, Washington Sea Grant at the University of Washington.

Great Lakes Region – To create training modules to prepare leaders of coastal communities around the Great Lakes to develop climate adaptation plans necessary to keep their communities safe and productive into the next century. Principal investigators: Rochelle Sturtevant, Great Lakes Regional Sea Grant Extension Educator of Michigan Sea Grant and Elizabeth Mountz, NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

Gulf of Mexico Region – To present a week-long training session for local government, Sea Grant and NOAA staff on how local communities can adapt to impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, increased flooding and more extreme weather events. Following the workshop, participants will be able to continue collaborations through a discussion forum on the NOAA Coastal Storms Web site. Principal investigators: Buck Sutter, NOAA Gulf of Mexico Regional Team leader; Karl Havens, Florida Sea Grant College Program at the University of Florida; and LaDon Swann, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium.

North Atlantic Region – To establish a regional network of "climate ambassadors" through training for staff of NOAA's North Atlantic Regional Team and Sea Grant extension agents. Sessions will cover the latest science as well as climate information and tools available from NOAA. The initial trainees will hold local training sessions in their home states. Principal investigators: Peyton Robertson, NOAA North

Atlantic Regional Team leader and Sylvain De Guise, Connecticut Sea Grant College Program at the University of Connecticut.

Pacific Islands Region – To prepare a Pacific Climate Change Impacts Resources Guide. Funding supports production of two stand-alone chapters of the guide planned for educators. The guide is for use in a larger effort of climate outreach and education activities. Principal investigators: Darren Okimoto, University of Hawaii Sea Grant; Eileen Shea and Lynn Nakagawa, NOAA Integrated Data and Environmental Applications Center/Pacific; and James Weyman, NOAA National Weather Service Climate Information System.

Southeast and Caribbean Region – To establish a regional network of climate extension and outreach professionals and strengthen the network's ability to provide information, tools, and assistance related to climate change impacts and adaptation. This project will bring extension and outreach personnel together to share information and will maintain a network for on-going communication. Principal investigators: Charles Hopkinson, Georgia Sea Grant Program at the University of Georgia; Jessica Whitehead, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium; Stephanie Fauver, NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston, S.C.; and Geno Olmi, NOAA Southeast and Caribbean Regional Coordinator.

Western Region – To present a workshop to engage recreational fishers, resource managers, scientists, and environmentalists in assessing and planning for climate change impacts on West Coast fisheries. The workshop will be the first step toward implementing a climate change plan for West Coast fisheries. Principal investigators: John Stein, NOAA Western Regional Team leader and Penelope Dalton, Washington Sea Grant at the University of Washington.

The Climate Engagement Mini-Grant Program is modeled after the NOAA Stakeholder Engagement Mini-Grant program, which distributed grants in 2009 to fund regional pilot projects engaging communities in issues of interest to both NOAA and local residents. The goal of the new program is to leverage NOAA and Sea Grant resources to help coastal communities adapt to climate change.

Sea Grant is a nationwide network of 32 university-based programs that work with coastal communities. The National Sea Grant College Program engages this network of the nation's top universities in conducting scientific research, education, training, and extension projects designed to foster science-based decisions about the use and conservation of our aquatic resources.

NOAA Research: <http://www.oar.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Sea Grant College Program: <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov>

NOAA Regional Collaboration: <http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/reco.html>

Pre-Proposals Received for MPA Fund

The [Marine Protect Areas Center](#) (MPAC) and the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) (NFWF) have established an MPA Fund to enhance stewardship and coordination among national system member sites. The fund issued its first call for proposals in October 2009, and 11 pre-proposals were received. The MPA Center and NFWF will announce grant recipients in April 2010. Non-Federal MPA agencies could apply for funds for Stewardship Projects as Part of a Regional/Sub-Regional MPA plan, Development of a Regional/Sub-Regional MPA Plan, or Meeting National System Eligibility Criteria. Approximately \$190,000 is available for grants through the fund.

The MPA Center and NFWF are seeking additional partners to expand the fund in 2010 and beyond. For more information, contact [Lauren Wenzel](#).

In the Gulf States

Introduction to The USA Oyster Program

The University of South Alabama (USA) received funding through NOAA Fisheries in 2002-2005 for the Alabama Oyster Reef Restoration Program to enhance and restore oyster habitat.

In 2006 and 2008-09 the program was expanded to include enhancement of other fisheries habitats, including seagrass and off-shore hard bottom reef habitats.

The Program has four major components:

1. Targeted research projects
2. Assessment of marine habitats
3. Habitat creation/restoration
4. Public outreach



The Alabama Oyster Reef and Fisheries Habitat Enhancement Program has three long-term objectives:

- to assist in the development of a long-term strategy for sustained productivity of Alabama's oyster resources and the associated ecological and fishery benefits that accrue from healthy oyster-based habitat
- to develop the scientific understanding necessary to direct current and future fisheries habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement in Alabama coastal waters and adjacent areas
- to provide this information to state and federal management agencies, the fishing industry and the general public through outreach activities

“Restoration Briefs” will be distributed quarterly to provide the public with information on the program's research conclusions, restoration science advances and application of these findings. For more information contact Steven Scyphers at sscyphers@disl.org or Meg.Goecker@noaa.gov.

Prescribed Burn Planned for Gulf State Park Jan 20 – Feb 28, 2010

January 19, 2010

A prescribed burn on 102 acres within Gulf State Park is planned for January 20 – February 28, 2010, weather permitting. The Alabama State Parks Division, in conjunction with Wildlife Solutions and the Alabama Forestry Commission, will conduct the burn as part of a multi-phase Gulf Coast longleaf pine restoration project. The Gulf State Park phase of the project is contracted through Wildlife Solutions, a resource management contractor. The burn will take place on three separate small tracts of land located off County Road 2 and adjacent to the campground.

Every effort will be made to ensure proper smoke management and safety of the surrounding areas during this period. As evidenced in past burns, the cities of Orange Beach and Gulf Shores fire departments will assist as needed.

The longleaf pine restoration project has been made possible through a habitat enhancement grant administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the Southern Company. The grant focuses on the re-establishment of longleaf pine habit within its historic range along the Gulf Coast. Longleaf pine habitat is crucial for the sustainability of various species including: bobwhite quail, whitetail deer, eastern turkey and the Bachman's sparrow.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through five Divisions: Marine Police, Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR, visit www.outdooralabama.com.

Adapting to Shifting Sands

Design plan opens eyes to island's resilient possibilities

The natural history of a town or city can be one of the most important things to understand when planning the town's future. Graduate students creating an implementation plan for the future of Alabama's Dauphin Island paid special attention to the different landforms, habitats and wildlife on the barrier island when illustrating how the community could become most resilient in the face of sea-level rise, hurricanes and other hazards.

Auburn University graduate student Matthew Capps, along with Andrew Cole-Tyson, Joao Xavier and others, helped develop a plan to show Dauphin Island residents what their town could look like if it became what residents said they wanted it to be. Capps and other students were part of Auburn University's School of Architecture's Gulf Coast Design Lab, which was partially funded by the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium.

After Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in August of 2005, Five E's Unlimited, a consulting firm, worked with the Dauphin Island residents through surveys and town meetings and led discussions about what residents would like to see in their community. Students from the design lab assisted the firm and residents as they created a strategic plan for the island.

A design lab is an academic setting where students apply the knowledge they gained in their architecture classes to a project that is critiqued by faculty members, community sponsors and clients. Capps, a landscape architect, then was among a group that focused the most important elements to the community and showed the community the opportunities that could lie ahead. Capps used aerial imagery, geomorphology (the study of the Earth's structure), maps and other resources to understand the island's natural processes and incorporate techniques to make the island more resilient to natural hazards.

"By studying the geomorphology of Dauphin Island, I was able to understand history and dynamics of all the types landforms located on the island," Capps said. "By doing so, I am also able to predict future shifting landscape or the most stable grounds. The movement of Dauphin Island was the linchpin for the design. The west end of the island is in constant shifts and movements. The east end is more sustainable."

The community's main priorities were developing a central business district, a hotel conference center and a main working waterfront area. Capps focused on the central business district while other students studied the feasibility of a hotel and conference center that would allow people to hold conventions on the

island and provide enough rooms for them to stay. The central business district would help support retail, allow more shops to open and provide the island with additional revenue. According to Professor Michael Robinson, who led the design lab with Auburn University Assistant Professor David Pearson, few visitors to Dauphin Island's rental homes and condominiums spend a lot of money on the island.

"Everyone who comes to Dauphin Island already has their beer chest and groceries loaded in their SUV," Robinson said. "Then, they leave the island to get more. The idea is to capture some of the money that comes on the island and keep it there."

The design calls for a new town center to be located where residents drive onto the central part of the island, which is more protected than the west end. The whole center would be built on a 12-foot platform, which would allow for parking underneath and protection from storm surge. It would require tighter urban-development guidelines. The community stressed the need for a hotel and conference center. The design lab also created a feasibility study and design for a hotel located on the working waterfront just minutes (by foot) away from the business district, where guests could go to buy their daily goods.

"The project was theoretical," Capps said. "The framework could be set up so it could potentially happen." Other elements of the plan included moving all residences to the central part of the island to protect them, creating affordable workforce housing for employees who would work at the hotel, conference center and shops and creating a marina with one pier instead of the area that now exists with about 10 individual piers.

Pat Edwards, who has served on the Dauphin Island Planning Commission for about 20 years, took an active role in the planning process. The Auburn University group offered some out-of-the-box ideas, she said. "The Auburn group certainly opened a lot of people's eyes," Edwards said. "They were great to work with. They are up with current ideas and are encouraged to be creative." She said the committee suffered some growing pains as they worked. For example, after they planned overlay districts that would allow uses other than those required in the original zoning, the town realized it would have to go back and change its comprehensive plan to allow the working waterfront design. So, for now, the plan has been shelved.

Dauphin Island Mayor Jeff Collier said the community is appreciative that it had the opportunity to work with professionals and begin to look toward its future. "For a small community, it is a big help for us," Collier said. "It has been very positive to tough out ideas and then see them on paper."



Proposed Dauphin Island Plan (click to see the full-sized image)

Section B: Dauphin Island's Town Center

Program to Offer Certification for Nature-tourism Professionals

Today's wildlife enthusiasts are traveling the Gulf Coast and experiencing the natural history and culture of coastal and ocean environments. Wildlife viewing activities hold tremendous potential for stimulating local economies while celebrating natural wonders and cultural heritage. To be successful, nature-tourism experiences should provide quality opportunities to engage the public with natural resources in ways that lead to greater understanding and appreciation, while protecting and preserving the wildlife populations they are viewing.

The Coastal Nature Guide Certification Program has been developed for a new generation of nature-tourism professionals in the Gulf of Mexico region. The goal of this dynamic program is to help nature-tourism professionals build and enhance the skills needed to adopt and promote sustainable wildlife viewing practices that help preserve healthy and resilient coasts along the Gulf of Mexico.

A diverse group of local scientists with expertise in biology, ornithology, marine mammals, aquaculture, botany and resource-protection laws and regulations will conduct a one-day training session for nature-tourism professionals beginning at 8 a.m. on Feb. 22 at the Weeks Bay Reserve Educational Interpretive Center in Fairhope. Participants will gain a vast knowledge of local ecosystems; learn to promote good stewardship through an established code of ethics; and learn how to conduct an educational briefing at the start of a tour. After implementing these practices, nature-tour operators will request evaluations of their businesses. Once the program director finds their business to be in compliance with the program's standards and practices, nature-tour operators will receive certification and decals of the program logo to display on tours and in advertising.



The cost of the certification program is \$70. Annual recertification includes submitting a coastal nature guide reporting form, completing a training course and evaluation. For further information or to register, contact Joanne McDonough at 251-974-4634. McDonough is a nature tourism specialist with the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium and the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau. Reach her at jmcdonough@gulfshores.com.)

Dauphin Island Sea Lab to Participate in Alabama ACCESS Distance Learning Week

The fascinating organisms and habitats of Alabama's coastal and marine waters are now only a click away for Alabama high school students thanks to the Alabama State Department of Education's ACCESS program. This distance learning program, integrated into every public high school in Alabama, will be featured in the ACCESS Distance Learning Week, February 1-5, 2010, and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Education and Outreach department, Discovery Hall Programs, is honored to take part in this innovative program for high school students.

During the entire week, numerous organizations will be conducting exciting programs and lessons for high school students, members of the Alabama Legislature, and other interested organizations throughout the state. On Wednesday, February 3, starting at 1pm, educators from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Education and Outreach team will conduct an Introduction to Animals in Alabama's Coastal Waters.

Using both live and preserved specimens, the Sea Lab educators will show students examples of many groups of invertebrate and vertebrate animals commonly found in Alabama's waters. The taxonomy, habitats, and natural history of these animals will be discussed. A document camera system will allow close up views of many of the animals being discussed. The presentation will end with an "up close and personal" look at an animal through a dissection of a bonnethead shark!

As a special feature during this event, a "live audience" of juniors and seniors from Murphy High School's Marine Biology II class, and their teacher Ms. Sharon Delchamps will be at the Sea Lab during the program. "As the marine science research and education facility for the state of Alabama, we are very excited to be taking part in this event," said Dr. Tina Miller-Way, Sea Lab Associate Director for Education and Outreach. "Humans and the oceans are inextricably connected."

The ACCESS program will allow us to bring the excitement and importance of marine science to each and every high school student in Alabama. With the support of the Legislature, the Governor and the State Department of Education, Alabama can be a leader in ocean and environmental literacy."

Launched in 2004, the ACCESS program seeks to provide greater equity for all Alabama public high school students through access to distance learning technology. Alabama is poised to be a leader in distance learning by tailoring online and videoconferencing services to the needs of the individual student. By leveraging existing resources and expanding access, this program will deliver a broad range of courses to students statewide, including Alabama's hardest-to-serve areas. For more information on the ACCESS program and ACCESS week, visit <http://accessdl.state.al.us/>

Florida Governor Crist Visits Rookery Bay Reserve

Hundreds of Florida residents and visitors joined Florida Governor Charlie Crist on January 22 as he dedicated a new pedestrian bridge at Rookery Bay Reserve near Naples, Florida. Other state dignitaries welcomed supporters during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the bridge, which stretches from the Reserve's Environmental Learning Center across Henderson Creek to a planned trail system. The governor visited various sites in South Florida as part of his campaign for the U.S. Senate in the 2010 election. For more information, contact [Erica Seiden](#).

Florida Green Lodging Program Surpasses 600 Members

~Nineteen lodging facilities join the Florida Green Lodging program~

TALLAHASSEE - The New Year is a time for new resolutions, and 19 hotels recently made their resolutions to protect Florida's environment by becoming designated members of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Green Lodging program. With the new designations, the program has surpassed 600 members, and now boasts a total of 614 designated properties statewide.

"Earning designation in the Florida Green Lodging program is an achievement these 614 facilities can be proud of," said DEP Director of Sustainable Initiatives Deas Bohn. "The environmental commitment demonstrated by Green Lodging facilities serves as an example and challenge to other hotels to adopt innovative green practices, conserve resources and save money."

To become a designated member of the voluntary program, lodging facilities adopt cost-saving green practices to conserve energy, reduce water consumption, protect air quality and reduce waste.

Launched in March 2004, the Florida Green Lodging program establishes environmental guidelines for hotels and motels to conserve natural resources and prevent pollution. As reward for designation, the state

is recommending designated properties in the Florida Green Lodging program to companies and trade organizations seeking environmentally conscious lodging and convention facilities. For more information about the Florida Green Lodging program, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging.

DEP's Office of Sustainable Initiatives is comprised of three voluntary, non-regulatory programs that assist Florida industry and citizens in protecting the environment. The Clean Marina program, the Clean Vessel Act grant program and the Florida Green Lodging program offer a variety of services including consultations, speakers and workshops, all at no cost to citizens or organizations. The goal of the Sustainable Initiatives programs is to meet the needs of the present population without compromising resources for future generations. To learn more about DEP's Sustainable Initiatives, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/green.

Governor Crist's 2010-11 Budget Recommends \$2.1-Billion for Protection of Florida's Environment

TALLAHASSEE – Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Michael W. Sole today commended Governor Charlie Crist's budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2010-11. Highlighting projects that will secure Florida's economic future, the Governor proposed a \$2.1 billion investment in Florida's environment, including the Florida Forever land conservation program, renewable energy, water supply, Everglades restoration, and state park improvements.

"Governor Crist is again demonstrating environmental commitment to our state, providing \$2.1 billion to fund critical programs to preserve land, protect our water supply and restore the Everglades," said DEP Secretary Michael W. Sole. "Thanks to the Governor and Lt. Governor's leadership, Florida continues to safeguard its present and future economy, improve our quality of life, and protect our natural resources." The Governor Crist's proposed 2010-11 budget includes:

Florida Forever – Since 1963, Florida has committed more than \$7.5 billion to preserve and conserve roughly 3.8 million acres of land. However, the program was temporarily halted last year due to economic challenges. This year, the proposed budget revives Florida Forever by recommending \$50 million to continue the preservation of Florida's unique natural resources and wildlife.

Green Energy Technologies – To ensure continued progress toward advancing Florida's energy future and growing Florida's low-carbon economy, the budget includes \$10 million for solar energy rebates.

Everglades Restoration – Continuing his focus on protecting the health of the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and their estuaries, Governor Crist proposed \$50 million to ensure that Everglades projects will continue to restore a more natural water flow for this unique ecosystem and improve water quality and water supplies for all of South Florida. Lake Okeechobee is the upstream water source for the Everglades and provides the water supply for nearby towns, agricultural operations and downstream ecosystems. The lake supports a multi-million dollar recreational and commercial fishery, as well as flood control for surrounding communities. During the past three years, Governor Crist has signed budgets designating \$300 million toward Everglades restoration.

Sustainable Water Resources – To ensure adequate quantities of water to support Florida's population growth and environmental health, Governor Crist proposed \$20 million in matching funds for wastewater and drinking water revolving-loan programs and alternative water supply projects, as well as \$6 million for water quality programs vital to Florida's springs, rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

Underground Petroleum Tank Cleanup and State Park Repairs – To ensure the health and safety of Floridians and visitors, Governor Crist proposed \$144 million to clean up underground petroleum tanks

and \$29.2 million to remediate and restore other previously contaminated sites. The Governor also proposed \$11.2 million for repairs and renovations to existing state park facilities.

For additional details on the Governor's recommended Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget, visit www.MyFlorida.com and click on "The People's Budget," or visit www.ThePeoplesBudget.state.fl.us.

More Louisiana Marinas Join an Elite Group



Marina Del Ray in Madisonville – La. DNR Coastal Program Manager Charles Reulet presents operator Annie Wilson with Clean Marina certification on Thursday, Jan. 21st.

Five marinas in the state have recently been certified and have joined the state's Clean Marina Program, according to coastal managers at the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In October and November of this year, three marinas located in St. Tammany Parish and two in Plaquemines Parish have adopted guidelines and measures to become a part of the department's program. Additional marinas in Plaquemines are scheduled for certification visits by DNR Office of Coastal Management officials in December.

The five certified facilities joining the Louisiana Clean Marina Program are The Dock in Slidell, Marina Beau Chéne in Mandeville, Marina Del Ray in Madisonville, Delta Marina in Empire, and Myrtle Grove Marina in Myrtle Grove,

LA. The designation means being part of a national program in which marina owners and operators employ best management practices that help protect the environment. Marinas are gateways to sensitive marine habitats that should be free of pollution and should be safe for boaters and citizens.

"This program, and the businesses who participate in it, are excellent examples of how we can reach the balance of enjoying our natural resources and protecting them," said DNR Secretary Scott Angelle.

The program promotes and celebrates voluntary adoption of measures that marinas can take and recreational boaters can participate in to protect waterways in our state. Office of Coastal Management Assistant Secretary Lou Buatt noted that marina businesses can show pride in their practice of maintaining a clean and safe environment and reap some economic benefits at the same time.

The program began in 2004, under Secretary Angelle's leadership. The goal has been to reach every marina in the Louisiana coastal zone, some 50 or so, with the clean marina guidebook for state certification. Louisiana's Clean Marinas receive a certificate acknowledging their environmentally responsible actions, a special flag to fly on their property, authorization to use the Clean Marina logo at their place of business, on their letterhead and in advertising, along with public recognition.

A recognition event to honor these marina owners and operators is expected and will be announced in January. More information on how to become a Clean Marina can be found online at www.dnr.louisiana.gov/cleanmarina.

Landrieu Comments on Coastal Restoration Funding in President's FY 2011 Budget

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu, D-La., today commented on the announcement by the White House that \$36 million for coastal restoration efforts in Louisiana was included in President Obama's FY 2011 budget. While federal funds have been used for construction of coastal restoration projects through other programs championed by Senator Landrieu, this marks the first time that any President has put such funds in his budget.

Sen. Landrieu said: "The President has made an excellent first step by providing \$19 million in construction funding for coastal restoration in his budget recommendation. I will be reviewing the President's request very closely, but any step toward construction of the critical near-term coastal restoration project authorized in the 2007 WRDA is a good start.

"While this budget request is a step in the right direction, the current Federal process for addressing the dramatic ecological and economic crisis in coastal Louisiana is broken. The best of plans and projects are held up by the interminable process of planning, authorizations, complex regulations and insufficient and unreliable funding. Because the work to protect and restore coastal Louisiana could cost billions of dollars, we desperately need a more reliable and robust program to address this crisis."

Sen. Landrieu will continue to work with the President and the federal interagency working group assembled in the fall to build a new model for coastal Louisiana. This new approach will:

- Advance the design, implementation and construction of coastal protection, restoration and integrated water management for coastal Louisiana on a comprehensive scale;
- Establish a stronger federal-State partnership with balanced roles to govern coastal protection and restoration in Louisiana, and;
- Eliminate costly delays in implementing coastal restoration and protection projects, including the reduction of bureaucratic obstacles, unnecessary studies, inconsistent or conflicting federal laws, policies, and regulations.

The funds were recommended as part of the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program that was authorized by the 2007 Water Resources Development Act. The LCA authorized 17 projects identified as critical near term steps to coastal restoration in Southeast Louisiana.

Previous federal funds utilized for constructing coastal restoration have come through programs such as the Coastal Impact Assistance Programs of 2001 and 2005, as well as the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act or Breaux Act. The President's Budget also includes important funding for flood control and navigation. Through her position on the Senate Committee on Appropriations Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, Sen. Landrieu will be reviewing these requests in detail and determining whether they adequately meet the needs of Louisiana communities.

DMR Prints Vietnamese, Spanish Translations of Pocket Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has printed Vietnamese and Spanish translations of its "Mississippi Saltwater Recreational Fishing Size and Possession Limits" pocket guide. The wallet-sized, water-resistant guide provides a size and bag limit chart for some of the most popular sportfish found in Mississippi waters. The translations and English version of the pocket guide are free and available at the DMR office at 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, or on the DMR Web site at www.dmr.ms.gov under the publications menu.

2010 Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup Snares 347 Traps for Recycling

BILOXI, Miss. – During the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' (DMR) Shrimp and Crab Bureau's 2010 Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup, a total of 347 derelict crab traps were removed from Mississippi waters to be recycled at a Coast scrap-metal facility. The cleanup was held Jan. 28-30, 2010, in waters within a trap-gear closure area a half-mile of the main shoreline.



Cleanup volunteer Logan Stokes, 13, cleaned up crab traps with his grandfather, commercial crab fisherman Wain Rogers.

All Mississippi crab trap license holders were notified to remove their active traps from the closure area the week of Jan. 21-27, in advance of the cleanup. There were 140 volunteers registered in advance to help with the effort, although the Shrimp and Crab Bureau noted that high winds and cold conditions kept some volunteers from full participation. This type of cleanup works best in the winter months as low winter tides expose the derelict traps.

Volunteers turned in the derelict traps at three sites along the coast: Pascagoula Point (188 traps), Ocean Springs Harbor (116 traps) and Bayou Caddy Marina (43 traps).

Volunteers also submitted data cards

with information on where traps were recovered and what was in them. This information will be compiled by program partners at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Lab.

We are very pleased with the efforts of all of our volunteers and partners who worked together with DMR braving the cold to help restore our marine resources, said DMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau Director Traci Floyd.

The Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program is funded through a grant from the Fish America Foundation in partnership with the Brunswick Public Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center for Community-based Habitat Restoration. The program has removed and recycled over 18,200 derelict crab traps from Mississippi's waters since its inception in 2000.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

New Release--Benthic Habitat Atlas of Coastal Texas

The [Benthic Habitat Atlas](#) contains shallow-water habitat information for over 190 miles of Texas coastal bays. Users can access individual maps in an Internet viewer and download and print them as PDF documents. The maps are useful for public meetings, field activities, and planning related to dredging, prop scar management, and habitat change detection. Users can also access supplemental information on data development techniques.

Project Partners

The Benthic Habitats Atlas is the result of a collaborative effort among the following agencies:

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#)

[Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, Center for Coastal Studies](#)

[NOAA Coastal Services Center](#)

Patterson: Sylvan Beach Will be a Treasure Once Again

AUSTIN — Historic Sylvan Beach is once again ready to be enjoyed by beachgoers and tourists. Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson today announced the completion of a major state restoration of the once-popular tourist destination off Galveston Bay. “We’ve added soft sand, safe walkways and lots of lighting,” Patterson said. “This project has literally brought back the beach to Sylvan Beach.”

Patterson said Sylvan Beach was a Texas treasure in the 19th century. The railroad brought visitors from all around the country through La Porte then. But throughout the years, strong waves and traffic through the Houston Ship Channel washed away the beach, leaving just a rocky shore. The \$3.5 million worth of improvements at Sylvan Beach should once again make it a favorite spot for Houston-area beachgoers.

Small concrete blocks with holes were laid over the ground to make the shoreline safe and comfortable to traverse. The holes allow for water drainage and vegetation growth between the blocks, providing an attractive walkway for beachgoers – a drastic improvement over the previous bulky, broken concrete. Interlocked rocks, each about three to five feet in diameter, were placed along the shoreline to protect the beach from strong waves. Stone barriers built around two new, smaller beaches – called pocket beaches – will help keep sand on the shore where it belongs.

In 2007, the 80th Texas Legislature approved \$17.3 million – a record amount – for the Land Office to complete coastal protection projects. The Land Office funded 60 percent of the Sylvan Beach project, along with contributions from the city of La Porte and Harris County. URS Corporation of Houston designed and managed the project, and Lester Contracting of Port Lavaca was the general contractor. “For the first time in decades, Texans will enjoy the beauty and recreation Sylvan Beach has to offer, not to mention the economic benefits of renewed tourism for the community of La Porte,” Patterson said.

Patterson: Environmental Disaster Avoided... So Far

AUSTIN — Today, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office Jerry Patterson announced an environmentally sensitive area in Port Arthur has so far remained untouched by Saturday’s massive oil spill in the Port Arthur Ship Channel, thanks to the efforts of a special state agency task force.

“Thanks to the immediate response of the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Team, dangerous crude oil from the spill has been contained to the ship channel,” Patterson said. “Texans can be confident that the best people in the nation are on the job and an environmental crisis has been averted.”

GLO Oil Spill staff members have overseen the removal by specialists from the U.S. Coast Guard and independent contractors of 5,239 barrels (220,053 gallons) from the 11,000 barrel (462,000 gallons) spill. Patterson said 11 miles of containment boom has been laid out to trap the oil, and 27 skimmers are on-site to remove the pollution. The containment boom has kept the oil out of Keith Lake Cut, a passageway to Keith Lake in the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area, one of the most pristine estuarine reserves in the state. The reserve is home to the endangered Pig Frog and the Taylor Bayou Rookery, an important nesting area for numerous waterfowl.

So far, only two oiled birds have been reported. The GLO has mobilized a highly specialized wildlife cleaning trailer to care for any oiled animals. To avoid any further impact on migratory birds, the Land Office has mobilized a “bird scare cannon,” a device that lets out a frightening boom to scare birds away from the area. “Our Oil Spill Prevention and Response Team is world-renowned for its preparedness and response capability,” Patterson said. “In other states, this could have been an environmental disaster – but here in Texas, we know how to take care of our coast. Texans should be proud.”

The Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act of 1991 (OSPR) designated the Texas General Land Office as the lead state agency for preventing and responding to oil spills in the marine environment.

Other News

New StormSmart Coasts Network Newsletter

The StormSmart Coasts Network is a place for coastal decision makers to find and share the latest information on protecting communities from storms, floods, sea level rise, and climate change. The Network has announced a new service: a monthly StormSmart Coasts Network Newsletter that emails you summaries of all of the latest news that appears on the site. If you’re interested, just visit <http://us.stormsmartcoasts.org/newsletter/>.

Nutrient Enrichment Increases Food Web Complexity in Florida Bay

One way to study impacts of high nutrient loadings on food webs is to compare trophic dynamics in enriched and unenriched sites, but since enriched sites typically experience additional anthropogenic impacts (fishing pressure, upland development, etc.), results gained using this approach can be difficult to interpret. Another approach is to use in situ manipulations, enriching experimental sites with nutrients and comparing the parameters of interest before and after the additions. This approach was taken by researchers in Florida Bay, who wanted to examine the impact of increased nutrient availability on food web structure. Two sites, one eutrophic and one oligotrophic, were enriched with additions of N and P. Seagrasses and benthic epifauna were collected at each site before and after enrichment, and food web structure was examined using stable isotope analysis.

The effect of the nutrient additions on food web structure depended on the prior nutrient status of the site. Changes were small at eutrophic sites, but at low-nutrient sites, crustacean epiphyte grazer abundance increased and the diets of these grazers diversified, as did diets of benthic predators. The diets of benthic grazers shifted with nutrient enrichment from green macroalgae to an opportunistic seagrass (*Halodule wrightii*) that occurred only in the nutrient addition treatments. Food chain length appeared to be unaffected by site or nutrient treatment, but food web complexity increased at enriched sites. In this system, control seems to be more bottom-up than top-down.

This study sheds light on how food webs in seagrass-dominated sites will respond to nutrient enrichment, and emphasizes that the outcome depends on the initial nutrient status of the site.

Source: Armitage, A. R. and J. W. Fourqurean. 2009. Stable isotopes reveal complex changes in trophic relationships following nutrient addition in a coastal marine ecosystem. *Estuaries & Coasts* 32 (November 2009). DOI: 10.1007/s12237-009-9219-z
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/v735602262224683/?p=e9f47b35dea74801b26ea5b4f07be24a&pi=0>.

Regional Group to Begin Development of Southeast Smart Growth Network

As development and growth in our Southeast communities continues, so does the need for quality growth – or smart growth – training and technical assistance. Organizations within the Southeast who specialize in this type of training and capacity-building and the communities they work with have recognized there is not a “one size fits all” set of smart growth resources.

"The Southeast Smart Growth Network is a collaboration designed to enhance the ability of member organizations to assist our communities in implementing smart growth policies and practices. We accomplish this by increasing the accessibility and usability of regional best practices, technical and funding resources and by identifying opportunities for partnerships and future research."

- Mission Statement of the Southeast Smart Growth Network

What works for one region of the country will not necessarily apply to ours and there is an ever-increasing need for case studies, model ordinances and examples of best practices from other communities in the Southeast. To that end, the [Southeast Watershed Forum](#) (SEWF), with support from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), conducted a survey of almost 90 different organizations, agencies and individuals to determine if there was a need to form a Southeast Smart Growth Network.

The survey began in the summer of 2009 and the participation was extremely high. With more than a 60 percent response rate, and 88 percent of responses supporting the idea of forming a Southeast Smart Growth Network, plans moved forward to bring interested parties together. On December 3, 2009, representatives from seven different organizations met at EPA Region IV headquarters in Atlanta to discuss the logistics of forming such a regional network.

Out of this first meeting the group created a mission statement, developed a list of key issues and opportunities and formed four working groups: Organizational Structure/Funding, Website and Communications, Resources and Research and Video Conference. Each of the working groups met in December and January and will come together collectively again by teleconference on January 29, 2009, to discuss the next possible steps in forming a regional smart growth network. Any smart growth capacity-building organizations interested in joining this planning effort can contact Jane Fowler at 865-450-5188 / jf@southeastwaterforum.org.

Work on Assessment of Riparian Areas Nears Completion

Work is continuing to progress on the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership's (SARP) Regional Aquatic Habitat Assessment. This ongoing effort, lead by SARP's Habitat Assessment Committee of the Science and Data Committee, is taking a science-based approach to assessing the aquatic habitat conditions in 14 states in the southeast by focusing on each habitat component addressed in the [Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan](#). After months of research, conference calls, and data processing and analysis, work on the first habitat component - riparian areas - is nearly complete. Reports explaining the results and methodology, along with the raw data, will be announced as they become available.

To start addressing the water quality objective in the SAHP, SARP representatives met with data managers and GIS specialists of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at their office in Atlanta to assess the availability of regional water quality datasets. EPA indicated that some water quality databases are available, and that sharing these databases will enable both EPA and SARP to accomplish their mutual objectives of improving water quality. Another meeting will be scheduled in the following months to do more hands-on work with their databases.

SARP initiated an evaluation of habitat connectivity in streams and rivers in order to meet objectives in the SAHP. The assessment results will highlight potential fish barrier mitigation sites that could be funded by SARP. Members of the Science and Data Committee are collaborating with leaders of a similar study, the Northeast Aquatic Connectivity Assessment. They are sharing ideas on best available data, approaches, as well as potential problems and solutions that could arise with this assessment.

SARP launched a new and improved [website](#). The new site features project updates, funding opportunities and other work going on in our region that is accessible by location or focus area. It includes information on funding opportunities and a special log-in for SARP partners.

Grant Opportunities

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Funding Opportunity

NOAA published a request for proposals for funding in fiscal year (FY) 2011 on January 19, 2010. The application period will close on **April 9, 2010**. Interested parties should contact the appropriate [state CELCP lead](#) for additional information on state project solicitation processes. The FY 2011 Federal Register Notice and Federal Funding Opportunity notice are provided below, along with recommended application templates and supplementary information on project eligibility requirements.

- [Federal Register Notice](#)
- [Federal Funding Opportunity Notice](#)
- [Project and Budget Templates and Project Application Checklist](#)
- [Summary "Key" of Eligibility Criteria and Requirements for CELCP and Matching Funds Under the New Program Authorization](#)

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Request for Louisiana Proposals

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR), Office of Coastal Management (OCM) is currently requesting project proposals for the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP). CELCP projects protect important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses, and give priority to lands which can be effectively managed, protected, and that have significant ecological value by purchasing land from willing land owners at an appraised fair market value. LDNR-OCM ENCOURAGES POTENTIAL APPLICANTS TO CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE MAY ASSIST YOU IN YOUR PREPARATIONS.

All proposals are due to LDNR-OCM by 6:00 pm CDT on **Friday, March 10, 2010**. LDNR-OCM must receive project proposals for review 30 days prior to submitting projects to NOAA. The deadline for submission of proposals by LDNR-OCM to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is 6:00pm EST on April 9, 2010.

Competitive Funding Opportunity for FY 2011

NOAA has issued a request for proposals to develop a prioritized list of projects that are ready and eligible for funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 under the CELCP. The Program is a competitive funding program. Louisiana may submit no more than 3 project proposals requesting a maximum of \$3 million in federal funding per proposal. NOAA will develop a prioritized list of projects that are ready and eligible for funding. Funding is contingent upon the availability of FY 2011 Federal appropriations. It is anticipated that projects funded under this announcement will have a grant start date between June 1, 2011 and October 1, 2011. Annual appropriated funding levels for the CELCP ranged from \$8-\$50 million from FY 2002-2010. Please visit the NOAA website for the full announcement for funding at http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html For additional information, please contact Gregory DuCote Gregory.DuCote@LA.GOV, 225-342-5052.

EPA Seeks Applications for Environmental Community Grants

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is making \$2 million available in 2010 to reduce pollution at the local level through the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. CARE is a community-based program that works with county and local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations and universities to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources.

EPA will award CARE cooperative agreements in two levels. Level I awards range from \$75,000 to \$100,000 and will help establish community-based partnerships to develop local environmental priorities. Level II awards, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000 each, will support communities that have established broad-based partnerships, have identified the priority toxic risks in the community, and are prepared to measure results, implement risk-reduction activities and become self-sustaining.

In 2009, EPA's CARE program distributed \$2 million to nine communities. Examples of projects that received grants include addressing waste and storm water issues in Kennett, Mo.; reducing air and water pollution in Holyoke, Mass.; addressing water pollution from coal slurry in Wheeling, W.Va.; reducing radon and other indoor air pollutants in Pueblo, Colo.; and tackling the problem of hazardous waste materials and open dumping in Toksook Bay, Alaska. Since 2005, the grants have reached 68 communities in 34 states and territories. A recent evaluation by the National Association of Public

Administrators (NAPA) recognized the CARE program as a solid tested framework for engaging communities and other stakeholders.

Applications for the CARE grants are due **March 9, 2010**. EPA will conduct three Webcasts to answer questions from prospective applicants about the application process on Feb. 2, 23, and 26 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. More information about the grants: <http://www.epa.gov/care>.

ADEM Accepting Recycling Grant Applications

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is now accepting applications for the 2010 Alabama Recycling Fund Grants Program. The Department projects that \$1.5 million in grant funds will be available this year. The program is open to local governments and local government nonprofits/authorities seeking to promote local recycling efforts by enhancing established recycling programs or by initiating new recycling programs. Grant applications must be submitted to ADEM by **March 1, 2010** to be considered for funding.

Applications and regulations detailing program requirements and the process for applying may be found online at www.adem.alabama.gov. Entering its second year of operation, the Alabama Recycling Fund Grants Program has already been a tremendous success. In 2009, eight out of 37 applicants were awarded grant funds totaling more than \$1.1 million and grant recipients from across Alabama are using these funds to establish and enhance recycling programs.

The cities of Albertville and Boaz partnered to establish a joint recycling program and create the Albertville-Boaz Recycling Authority. Meanwhile, Auburn University, the City of Auburn, the City of Opelika, and Lee County partnered to increase regional recycling. Funds have been used to expand drop-off sites and purchase equipment such as recycling containers and balers. In addition, funds have supported public education activities to inform local citizens about the benefits of recycling.

Additional information on the Alabama Recycling Fund Grants Program, including a full list of 2009 grant recipients, can be obtained by contacting the ADEM Materials Management Section at (334) 271-7988 or by e-mail at recycling@adem.state.al.us.

Conferences and Workshops

CNREP 2010: Challenges of Natural Resource Economics and Policy

3rd National Forum on Socioeconomic Research in Coastal Systems
May 26-28, 2010 • New Orleans, LA • Royal Sonesta Hotel

Meet with your peers in an exciting multidisciplinary setting hosted in the unique city called “The Big Easy.” By highlighting the status and challenges of socioeconomic research and policy in coastal systems, the 3rd National Forum promises to generate future collaborative efforts while providing a prominent

venue for current research, extension, and policy work. Mark your calendars for CNREP 2010 to be held May 26-28, 2010 in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Royal Sonesta Hotel.

What Challenges?

The economic importance of natural capital is now widely acknowledged, and nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than in the coastal areas of the United States. Catastrophic damage from hurricanes, threats from sea level rise and subsidence, and the inexorable degradation associated with development and industrial activity all threaten coastal environments, but they also provide tremendous opportunities and demand for socioeconomic work. CNREP 2004 emphasized the need to further integrate social science considerations into the restoration and management of coastal systems. CNREP 2007 highlighted the opportunities for research and the contributions that social scientists make to the management of our coastal resources in Louisiana, the Everglades, Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, and other regions of the U.S. The CNREP 2010 triennial forum will continue this tradition of focusing on coastal resources and their role in the economic, social, and cultural systems of the world.

What are the Topics?

Presentations, posters, and discussion panels are currently being solicited for CNREP 2010. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Integrating social sciences into coastal policy
- Economics of coastal restoration and management
- Coastal community vulnerability and resiliency
- Land-use planning and land reclamation
- Energy economics and policy
- Socioeconomics of soil and water conservation
- Coastal forests conservation and management
- Communication and conflict resolution
- Legal considerations for coastal sustainability
- Economics of disaster assessment and recovery
- Access to coastal lands, waters, and resources
- Socioeconomics of retreat from the coast
- Marine fisheries economics and management
- Commercial and recreational resource conflicts
- Aquaculture trade, marketing and management
- Public and private resource conflicts/synergies
- Resource valuation (market and non-market)
- Environmental benefit-cost analyses
- Input-output/economic impact assessment
- Natural resource tourism assessments
- Human dimensions of natural resources
- Sustainability modeling and index development
- Integrating risk into coastal decision-making
- Market-based alternatives to regulation

Basic and applied research, extension-oriented, and policy discussion submissions are all welcome.

Call for Abstracts – Due February 19, 2010

Please submit your 500 word (maximum) paper or poster abstract via email (address below) by February 19, 2010. Include the abstract as text in the body of your email or as an attachment in MS Word format. Please provide the title of the paper, names and affiliations of authors, addresses (including email addresses), and key words for the paper. Please also indicate the presenting author and whether you would like to present the paper orally or as a poster.

Abstracts received by the deadline will be reviewed for quality and the potential for facilitating communication relevant to forum themes. Notification of acceptance and a tentative conference schedule will be distributed near the end of March 2010. All abstracts, both oral and poster, will be published electronically in the conference book of abstracts and will be posted on the CNREP web site following the conference.

All abstracts are to be submitted via email no later than February 19, 2010

Please email abstracts to:

Dr. Richard F. Kazmierczak, Jr., Professor of Resource Economics

Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy (CNREP)

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

Email: rkazmierczak@agcenter.lsu.edu

FAX: 225-578-2716, Voice: 225-578-2712

Conference Registration

Registration for CNREP 2010 is now open. Full registration cost is \$280 for regular attendees and \$150 for students. Registration covers the cost of all breaks, two breakfasts, two lunches, and three receptions. An additional seafood banquet will be held on Thursday, May 27th for an optional fee of \$30 per person. Registration is available through a secure website <http://www.cnrep.lsu.edu/2010/Registration.html>.

Wilderness First Aid: Training for First Responders for More Resilient Communities

Course Objectives

Instructors will stress improvisation techniques for emergency personnel that can be used when emergency supplies are unavailable or exhausted, as seen in the aftermath of recent hurricanes. The course will address self care options when public access to emergency rooms is hampered by hurricane conditions.

- 1) Course Overview and medical legal considerations of rescue volunteers.
- 2) Geographic and Meteorological conditions of the Gulf Coast. Previous hurricane damage reports and scenarios.
- 3) Patient assessment, documentation
- 4) Trauma care and common post hurricane injuries: crush injuries, lacerations, head injuries, chain saw injuries, blunt force injuries, electrocution, burns, carbon monoxide poisoning, etc.
- 5) Outside exposure injuries: Heat exhaustion, dehydration, insects, lightning
- 6) Evacuation emergencies: Cardiac care, respiratory distress, uncontrolled diabetes, acute abdomen, anaphylaxis.
- 7) Risk reduction for: communicable diseases, water purification, safe food.
- 8) Common Wilderness problems: Animal contact, sunburn, dehydration, fishhooks, splinters and rashes.
- 9) Wilderness First Aid Kit, Search and Rescue, wilderness transport.

Prerequisites: CPR certification and some first aid background.

The partnership of NOAA Coastal Services Center, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Coastal Training Program and Outward Bound present a workshop for first responders on wilderness medicine designed to increase the hazard resilience of coastal communities. Course information can be utilized by emergency medical personnel in hours following coastal natural or other disasters when organized relief is not available. Coastal decision makers will in turn be able to respond in times of crisis and challenge with trained personnel.

The Wilderness First Aid course was designed and approved in 2009 by a coalition comprised of representatives of the Wilderness Medical Society, The American Red Cross and the Boy Scouts of America. The Wilderness Medical Society is the primary provider of medical information for austere environments in the US. Course material will provide information about how one can respond to medical

emergencies when routine medical care is disrupted by floods, power outages and isolation due to loss of roads and bridges.

Space is limited. Registration deadline is **February 20, 2010** and no refunds following registration deadline date. The right to cancel the program due to lack of attendance is reserved. For information on training content, contact Lynn E. Yonge, MD, Medical Director for Outward Bound bases in Alabama and Florida at 251-610-1895 or lyonge@outwardbound.org. For information on training registration, contact Michael Shelton, Weeks Bay Reserve, at 251-928-9792.

2010 Environmental Education Symposium Slated for Feb. 26-27

Educators from throughout the state will convene in Baton Rouge on Feb. 26-27 for the 2010 Environmental Education Symposium. The symposium provides an opportunity for attendees to acquire professional development on environmental issues and earn valuable continuing learning units (CLUs).

This two-day event, staged at the Baton Rouge Marriott, is designed for environmental and science educators at all levels including supervisors, youth group organizers, informal educators, and anyone else with a vested interest in environmental education.

The symposium kicks off with five Friday short course offerings including:

- A journey into Turtle Bayou to view Bald Eagles and get a glimpse of a Bald Eagle's nest on the "Eagle Expo Tour" or
- The "Recycling, Landfills, and More! Tour", a three-stop adventure to the Recycling Foundation of Baton Rouge's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), the North Baton Rouge Landfill and the LSU Hilltop Arboretum, each presenting state-of-the-art answers to metropolitan waste or
- "Wonders of the Wetlands" or
- "Talk About Climate Change" or
- "Project WET/Healthy Water, Healthy People".

Educators will be treated to a festive Friday evening at the Marriott, enjoying the social mixer, meeting the exhibitors and viewing the exhibits. State and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, scientific research facilities, etc., will be represented. Biologists and researchers will be on hand to present information and answer questions. Exhibitors will also provide free educational materials including lesson plans and materials related to environmental topics.

With 28 concurrent sessions, educators will have no problem finding their particular area of interest on Saturday. A variety of presenters with strong backgrounds in education, scientific research and government decision-making will attend. This dynamic event concludes with a multitude of door prizes, the Saturday luncheon and keynote address.

The general registration cost is \$50 and includes the Friday evening social, exhibit hall, Saturday continental breakfast, concurrent sessions, Saturday luncheon and the keynote address. Friday short course sessions are offered at an additional \$10 cost. Lodging assistance is offered on a limited basis. Visit <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/eec> for registration forms and additional information. For additional information, contact Venise Ortego at 337-948-0255 or vortego@wlf.la.gov.

NMEA2010: From the Mountains to the Sea – Call for Presentations

The [National Marine Educators Association \(NMEA\) Conference](#) will be held July 19-23, 2010 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Select Call for Papers from the menu on the left of the website. The deadline for submission is **February 26, 2010**.

Session Content

Each concurrent session must address one or more conference strands and be of interest to the NMEA membership: formal educators, informal educators, university professors, researchers and program or agency administrators. It is recommended, but not required, that one or more of the Ocean Literacy principles be addressed.

Session Strands

Audiences - Focus is on cultivating a global community of water conservationists. Presenters are invited to share strategies and programs that focus on reaching out to underrepresented audiences.

Breakthroughs - Focus is on scientific research and new technologies that enable us to better understand the ocean, including the role of freshwater as it applies to inland waterways and its impact on the ocean.

Partnerships - Focus is on successful partnerships and collaborations among educators, researchers, diverse audiences and communities, as well as opportunities for teacher training, grants, awards and classroom funding.

Research - Focus is on behavioral patterns of students and educators in schools and other organizations as they relate to ocean literacy. Presenters are invited to share their specific projects.

STEM - Focus is on combining science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in order to provide inquiry opportunities to enhance students' understanding of freshwater and marine ecosystems.

Sustainability - Focus is on conservation issues as they pertain to the well-being of the natural world and the responsible use of natural resources. Specific topics may include global climate change, policy initiatives and local success stories.

Teaching - Focus is on successful classroom experiences using aquatic and marine themes. Presenters are invited to share their best practices.

Tradition - Focus is on the long standing traditions, practices and cultures of regional, indigenous and local communities as they relate to freshwater and marine environments. Traditional ecological knowledge is cultural practice based on generations of place-based observations and empirical, experiential information. Presenters are invited to share perspectives, programs and strategies that embrace, support and celebrate traditional knowledge.

Other Information

Session proposals must be submitted by Friday, February 26, 2010. Proposals will be evaluated by the review committee. All proposals may not be accepted. Presenters will be notified by March 15, 2010.

Restore America's Estuaries: Call for Dedicated Sessions, Presentations, and Posters

Submittal Deadline: **March 2, 2010**

Restore America's Estuaries is accepting proposals for a [Call for Dedicated Sessions, Presentations, and Posters](#) for the 5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration--Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy.

The Conference Program will address all aspects of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration, in all habitats, at all scales, and all regions. Habitat restoration offers great promise for reversing the trend of habitat loss and degradation, and is a crucial component of comprehensive ecosystem restoration, protection, and management.

The overarching theme of the Conference is "Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy." Every aspect of restoration will be affected by climate change. Because of its power to effect change, habitat restoration is a key element in adaptive and mitigating climate change strategies that cuts across all disciplines.

The Conference will be held November 13-17, 2010, at the Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, Texas.

Deadline for Sessions, Presentations, and Posters: March 2, 2010.

For more information on the Conference, visit www.estuaries.org/conference

To submit a proposal, visit: <http://program.estuaries.org>

Contact: Suzanne Giles Simon, ssimon@estuaries.org

Addressing Uncertainty of Environmental Problems: The Challenges of Adaptive Management

March 30-31, 2010

• Oxford, Mississippi • Sponsored by the National Sea Grant Law Center

<http://nsglc.olemiss.edu/SGLPJ/symposium.htm>

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

2:00 - 4:00 pm Tour of Oxford, including guided tour of William Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak (optional)

5:30 - 6:00 pm [Registration](#)

6:00 - 6:30 pm Welcome Reception - The Inn at Ole Miss

6:30 - 7:30 pm Dinner

7:30 - 8:30 pm Keynote Address: Adapting Governance to Climate Change

Alejandro Camacho, Associate Professor of Law, Notre Dame School of Law

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

7:30 - 8:00 am Registration

8:00 - 8:15 am Welcoming Remarks

Stephanie Showalter, Director, National Sea Grant Law Center

Dean Sam Davis, University of Mississippi School of Law

Will Wilkins, Director, Mississippi Law Research Institute

- 8:15 - 9:00 am Scientific Underpinnings of Adaptive Management and Adaptive Governance
Lance Gunderson, Department of Environmental Studies, Emory University
- 9:00 - 10:00 am Adaptive Management and Environmental Ethics
Bryan Norton, School of Public Policy, Georgia Institute of Technology
- 10:00 - 10:15 am Break
- 10:15 - 11:00 am NOAA Marine Sanctuaries' Experiences with Adaptive Management
John Armor, NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Program
- 11:00 - 11:45 am MMS Efforts to Manage Chemosynthetic Communities in Gulf of Mexico
Gregory Boland, Mineral Management Service
- 11:45 - 12:30 pm Lunch (Provided)
- 12:30 - 1:15 pm Case Study - Columbia River Basin
Andrew Long, Florida Coastal School of Law
- 1:15 - 2:00 pm Can Conservation Easement Lands Be Managed Adaptively?
Jesse Richardson, Virginia Tech
- 2:00 - 2:15 pm Break
- 2:15 - 3:00 pm Climate Change and Coastal Management in the UK
Patricia Park, Southampton Solent University, UK
- 3:00 pm Adjourn

2010 National Hurricane Conference

March 29-April 2

Hilton Orlando, Orlando, Florida

The primary goal of the National Hurricane Conference is to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. In addition, the conference serves as a national forum for federal, state and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve Emergency Management.

To accomplish these goals, the annual conference emphasizes:

- Lessons Learned from Hurricane Strikes.
- State of the art programs worthy of emulation.
- New ideas being tested or considered.
- Information about new or ongoing assistance programs.
- The ABC's of hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation -- in recognition of the fact that there is a continual turnover of emergency management leadership and staff.

Did you find this edition useful? Please send suggestions, comments, and new items for publication to



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<http://www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/>