



GULF OF MEXICO NEWS

www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov

August 2009



NOAA Gulf of Mexico News

NOAA Gulf of Mexico News	4
Gulf of Mexico Alliance Implementation Workshop	4
2009 Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone Size Measured	4
NOAA Lowers Hurricane Season Outlook, Cautions Public Not to Let Down Guard ...	4
Study: Better Observations, Analyses Detecting Short-Lived Tropical Systems.....	6
NOAA Report Finds Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Among the Healthiest Coral Reefs in Gulf of Mexico.....	7
NOAA Announces Funding to Support Ocean Observing Along the Gulf Coast.....	8
NOS and Partners Install CORS at NOAA Sentinel in Bay Waveland.....	8
NOAA Awards Grant for Coastal Research Program at UNH	8
Mercury Problems in Mobile Bay Limited to Peripheral Tributaries	9
Variations in Algal Toxin May Influence Bloom Toxicity Management In Coastal Waters.....	9
Changes to FKNMS Regulations Effective August 31	10
With PORTS®, Ship Clears Bridge with Two Feet to Spare.....	10

Other NOAA News

..... 11

MPA Center Announces Second Round of Nominations for National System of MPAs 11

CZMA Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update Posted 11

Secretary of Commerce Announces \$40 Million in Recovery Act Projects to Support Efficient Marine Navigation and Create Jobs 12

In the Gulf States

..... 14

22nd Annual Alabama Coastal Clean-up..... 14

Crucial Time for Manatee Sighting 14

Governor Riley Assumes Chairmanship of Southern Governors’ Association 15

Florida DEP Celebrates National Marina Day with Waves of Green..... 16

Florida DEP Hosts Chinese Coastal Managers for Showcase of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves 17

Florida Coastal Management Partnership Opportunities Announced 18

Louisiana D.W.F. and Partners Host Elmer’s Island Trash Bash..... 19

Cheniere Energy and Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana Partner to Engage Cameron Students in Coastal Restoration..... 20

2008 South Louisiana Aerial Photography Now Available Online 21

Federal and State Agencies Aim To Rebuild Public Facilities Smarter..... 21

Louisiana D.W.F. Completes Oyster Reef Rehabilitation Project in Black Bay, Mississippi Sound, Lake Chien, Sister Lake and Calcasieu Lake 22

Louisiana D.W.F. Now on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube 23

Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force Seeking Sponsors 23

Mississippi DMR Executive Director Walker Accepts Stratton Award on behalf of Gulf of Mexico Alliance 24

Goecker Hired as Habitat Restoration Specialist..... 25

Field Guide Focuses on Aquatic and Wetlands Plants 26

First of “Wetlands and Water Quality” Workshops Held 26

Mississippi DMR Enhances Oyster Reefs..... 27

23rd Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup to be Held on Sept. 26 27

Texas General Land Office Launches TexasBeachAccess.org 28

Mobichairs Help Open South Padre Island Beaches to All 29

Ofrenda Unveiling to Showcase Galvestonians’ Personal Revival, Reflections, and Recovery Following Hurricane Ike..... 30

Virtual Barrier Islands Website.....	31
Artist Boat Brings Life Back To Galveston Beaches	32
16 th Annual Border Energy Forum Returns to Texas	33
Galveston Awarded \$20 Million Under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program For Hurricane Ike.....	34
Other News	
.....	35
Ocean Conservancy's 24th Annual International Coastal Cleanup to be Held Saturday, September 19th	35
Get Involved in National Estuaries Day on September 26th 2009!.....	36
Coastal and Estuarine Science News- August 2009.....	37
Janine Powell Named New Director, USGS National Wetlands Research Center	39
Dept. of Interior and FERC Issue Guidance on Wave, Tide, and Current Projects	40
New Online Toolkit for Conservation Advocates.....	40
Grant Opportunities	
.....	41
CELCP Reopens Limited FY 2010 Competition	41
National Sea Grant Law Center FY2010 Grant Competition	41
NOAA CSCOR Competitive Grants Announced.....	41
NOAA Restoration Center Announces Three New Funding Opportunities	43
Gulf of Mexico NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (BWET) Program Funding Opportunity Announced.....	43
Conferences and Workshops	
.....	44
17 th National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop	44
CREST Program: Current Projects in Coastal Research	44
Alabama BirdFest.....	45
Wetland and Transitional Habitats of the Louisiana Gulf Coast.....	45
Announcing the 2009-2010 "From H-2-O" Water Quality Workshop for Teachers	46
Oceans 2009.....	46
Navigating the Environment	47
First Southeastern Water Trails Forum	47

NOAA Gulf of Mexico News

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Implementation Workshop

The [Gulf of Mexico Alliance](#) met in Mobile, AL, during the week of August 3 to discuss the health of the Gulf Region. Over 300 participants from the five Gulf States, NOAA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Sea Grant, non-governmental organizations, and universities came together to plan for the implementation of the actions outlined in the recently released Governors' Action Plan II for Healthy and Resilient Coasts. Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere Mary Glackin addressed the participants and outlined how NOAA is committed to supporting the Gulf region through NOAA's regional collaboration team and the Alliance. The Gulf States have identified six priority issues that are regionally significant, including environmental education, coastal community resilience, improving water quality, and restoring and conserving habitat. For more information, contact [Nancy Wallace](#).

2009 Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone Size Measured

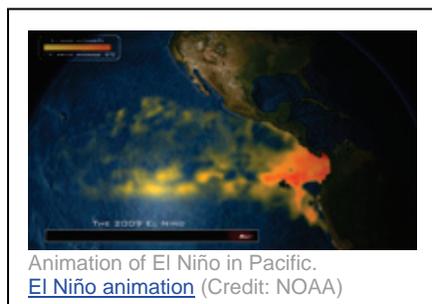


 [Making Waves Episode 32: Gulf Dead Zone Size Measured](#)

Making Waves is a bi-weekly audio podcast reporting on the latest National Ocean Service news and information.

NOAA Lowers Hurricane Season Outlook, Cautions Public Not to Let Down Guard

August 6, 2009



According to its [August Atlantic hurricane season outlook](#), NOAA now expects a near- to below-normal Atlantic hurricane season, as the calming effects of El Niño continue to develop. But scientists say the season's quiet start does not guarantee quiet times ahead. The season, which began June 1, is entering its historical peak period of August through October, when most storms form. "While this hurricane season has gotten off to quiet start, it's critical that the American people are prepared in case a hurricane strikes," said Commerce Secretary Gary Locke.

[NOAA's Climate Prediction Center](#), a division of the [National Weather Service](#), now predicts a 50 percent probability of a near-normal season, a 40 percent probability of a below-normal season, and a 10 percent probability of an above-normal season. Forecasters say there is a 70 percent chance of seven to 11 named storms, of which three to six could become hurricanes, including one to two major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5).

The main change from the May outlook is an increased probability of a below-normal season, and an expectation of fewer named storms and hurricanes. The May outlook called for nine to 14 named storms, of which four to seven could become hurricanes, including one to three major hurricanes. During an average season, there are 11 named storms with winds of at least 39 mph, of which six become hurricanes with winds of 74 mph or greater and two of those become major hurricanes with winds of 111 mph or higher.

In recent weeks, forecasts for the return of El Niño – warmer than normal waters along the equatorial central and eastern Pacific Ocean – have come to fruition. “El Niño continues to develop and is already affecting upper-level atmospheric pressure and winds across the global tropics,” said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center. “El Niño produces stronger upper-level westerly winds over the Caribbean Sea and tropical Atlantic Ocean, which help to reduce hurricane activity by blowing away the tops of growing thunderstorm clouds that would normally lead to tropical storms.”

“El Niño may mean fewer storms compared to recent seasons, but it doesn’t mean you can let your guard down,” said Jack Hayes, Ph.D., director of NOAA’s National Weather Service. “History shows that hurricanes can strike during an El Niño.” Some examples include Betsy in 1965, Camille in 1969, Bob in 1991, Danny in 1997 and Lili in 2002.

Even though El Niño tends to decrease the number of storms, other climate factors may help to create some storms. As predicted in May, conditions associated with the high-activity era that began in 1995 are in place, and include enhanced rainfall over west Africa and warmer tropical Atlantic Ocean water, which favor storm development.

The calm start to this hurricane season is not a reliable indicator of the overall activity for the entire season. The 1992 Atlantic hurricane season, for example, had a below-normal number of named storms and hurricanes. The first storm did not form until late August, when Hurricane Andrew hit southern Florida as a destructive Category 5 storm.

Records for the latest date for the season's first tropical storm and hurricane

Since Records Dating Back to 1851:
Tropical storm: September 15 (1914)
Hurricane: October 8 (1905)

Since 1966 (with routine satellite monitoring):
Tropical storm: August 30 (Arlene in 1967)
Hurricane: September 11 (Gustav in 2002)

Source: NOAA's National Hurricane Center

“These outlooks are extremely valuable when determining cycles and trends for the season, however they don’t tell us when the next storm will occur or where it may strike,” said FEMA administrator Craig Fugate. “It only takes one storm to put a community at risk. That is why we need to take action and prepare ourselves and our families before the next storm hits, including developing a family disaster plan. By taking a few simple steps now we can help ensure that we are better prepared and that our first responders are able to focus on our most vulnerable citizens.”

Predicting where and when a storm may hit land depends on the weather conditions in place at the time the storm approaches. Therefore NOAA’s seasonal outlook, which spans multiple months, does not include landfall projections. But once a storm appears to be forming, [NOAA’s National Hurricane Center](#) will issue track and intensity forecasts. 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.

Slow Starts Not Unusual

It's not uncommon to have no storms in June or July, as we've seen this year. On average only one or two storms form during the season's first two months.

Recent active seasons, however, have skewed the perception of what is normal during the start of the season. For example, by the end of July there were four storms in 2008 and seven in 2005.

Source: NOAA's National Hurricane Center

Study: Better Observations, Analyses Detecting Short-Lived Tropical Systems

August 11, 2009

A NOAA-led team of scientists has found that the apparent increase in the number of tropical storms and hurricanes since the late 19th and early 20th centuries is likely attributable to improvements in observational tools and analysis techniques that better detect short-lived storms.

The [new study](#), reported in the online edition of the American Meteorological Society's peer-reviewed *Journal of Climate*, shows that short-lived tropical storms and hurricanes, defined as lasting two days or less, have increased from less than one per year to about five per year from 1878 to 2008.

"The recent jump in the number of short-lived systems is likely a consequence of improvements in observational tools and analysis techniques," said Chris Landsea, science and operations officer at [NOAA's National Hurricane Center](#) in Miami, and lead author on the study. "The team is not aware of any natural variability or greenhouse warming-induced climate change that would affect the short-lived tropical storms exclusively."

Several storms in the last two seasons, including 2007's Andrea, Chantal, Jerry and Melissa and 2008's Arthur and Nana, would likely not have been considered tropical storms had it not been for technology such as satellite observations from NASA's Quick Scatterometer (QuikSCAT), the European ASCAT (Advanced SCATterometer) and NOAA's Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (AMSU), as well as analysis techniques such as the Florida State University's Cyclone Phase Space.

"We do not dispute that these recent systems were tropical storms," said Landsea. "In fact, the National Hurricane Center's ability to monitor these weaker, short-lived storms provides better warnings to mariners of gale force winds and high seas."



Short-lived Tropical Storm Chantal forms 210 miles south of Halifax, Nova Scotia on July 31, 2007. [High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

According to Dr. Brian Soden, a professor at the University of Miami's Rosentiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, "The study provides strong evidence that there has been no systematic change in the number of north Atlantic tropical cyclones during the 20th century."

Co-authors Gabriel Vecchi and Thomas Knutson, both of the NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, developed a sampling methodology to measure whether meteorologists missed medium- to long-lived tropical storms and hurricanes from the late 1800s through the 1950s. They found that about two of the medium- to long-lived storms per year were unaccounted for in the late 1800s. By the 1950s, forecasters missed less than one per year.

When the researchers discounted the number of short-lived tropical storms and hurricanes and added the estimated number of missed medium- to long-lived storms to the historical hurricane data, they found no significant long-term trend in the total number of storms.

The team also noted that the finding of no increasing trend in hurricane and tropical storm counts in the Atlantic is consistent with several recent global warming simulations from high-resolution global climate model and regional downscaling models.

"This new study is one piece of the puzzle of how climate may influence hurricanes. Although Atlantic storm counts overall have not changed, this study does not address how the strength and number of the strongest hurricanes have changed or may change due to global warming," noted Knutson. Lennart Bengtsson of the University of Reading, United Kingdom, was also a research team member and co-author on the journal paper.

NOAA Report Finds Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Among the Healthiest Coral Reefs in Gulf of Mexico

August 13, 2009



Blue angelfish.
[High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

[Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary](#) is among the healthiest coral reef ecosystems in the tropical Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, according to a new NOAA report.

The report, [A Biogeographic Characterization of Fish Communities and Associated Benthic Habitats within the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary](#), offers insights into the coral and fish communities within the sanctuary based on data collected in 2006 and 2007. Sanctuary managers will use the report to track and monitor changes in the marine ecosystem located 70 to 115 miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana.

"We found that 50 percent of the area surveyed for this report is covered by live coral," said Chris Caldwell, a NOAA marine biologist and lead author on the report. "This is significant because such high coral cover is a real rarity and provides critical habitat for many different types of fish and other animals that live in these underwater systems."

The sanctuary also is unusual in that it is dominated by top-level predators, including large grouper, jacks, and snappers that are virtually absent throughout the U.S. Caribbean. Researchers looked at the relationship between physical measures of the sanctuary's habitat such as depth, slope and geographic location, and the nature of the fish community in each location. "Ultimately our goal was to develop a protocol that would detect and track long-term changes in fish and sea-floor community structure," Caldwell said. "Once managers are equipped with this information, they can better understand how threats from climate change and other stressors will impact the ecosystem."

The report cautions that despite the sanctuary's relatively healthy condition, it may be more susceptible to environmental impacts than previously thought. For example, scientists observed high levels of coral bleaching and corals severely impacted from hurricane activity.

NOAA prepared the report based on data collected in 2006 and 2007, with input from scientists and managers at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.



Diver collecting benthic data at Flower Garden National Marine Sanctuary.
[High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

NOAA Announces Funding to Support Ocean Observing Along the Gulf Coast

August 13, 2009

The [NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System](#) (IOOS) is awarding \$973,083 in 2009 competitive grant funding to support ocean observing efforts in the Gulf of Mexico.

Three grants awarded to the [Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System](#) will be managed by regional coordinator Ann Jochens, Ph.D., of Texas A&M University. One project will continue the operations of the GCOOS Regional Association, which governs development of the system and determines the needs for data and products of many stakeholders.

A second grant will maintain and enhance the GCOOS web data portal to enable easier access and use of available ocean data as a first step toward a regional operations center. The third grant will be used to standardize the near real-time marine data delivery systems of ten major non-federal data providers of the Gulf of Mexico.

GCOOS is one recipient in a series of nationwide peer-reviewed IOOS grant projects, totaling \$21 million this year. The goal of each regional observing system is to maintain and enhance ocean and coastal observations in the area, making data easier to access and giving planners and policymakers the information needed to improve safety, enhance the economy, and protect the environment. Data from each region will also be available to researchers throughout the country via the national IOOS.

“This award represents NOAA’s commitment to implementing the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation Act of 2009 which recognizes the IOOS regional systems as key components of the national effort,” said Zdenka Willis, NOAA IOOS program director. “These projects are crafted to meet local customer needs while also contributing to the success of the national effort.”

NOS and Partners Install CORS at NOAA Sentinel in Bay Waveland

Recently, the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) collaborated with the University of Southern Mississippi to install a Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) at the Bay Waveland, MS, NOAA Sentinel water-level station. With CORS now installed at the Bay Waveland station, NOAA is able to relate sea level change with land motion to better anticipate flooding related to land subsidence, earthquakes, sea level change, storm surge, and other natural phenomena. The Bay Waveland NOAA Sentinel station is one of over 200 water-level stations that make up the National Water Level Observation Network. The ability to observe land motion and sea level changes at the same time and same place results in benefits to the nation including enhanced preparation for and response to natural phenomena. For more information, contact [Tom Landon](#).

NOAA Awards Grant for Coastal Research Program at UNH

NOAA has awarded a \$5.2 million grant to the University of New Hampshire to establish a new program that will support coastal zone research to provide decision makers with appropriate science and technology to address critical issues in the coastal zone. The research program will include an emphasis on issues directly related to the impacts of climate change. The new program will be launched in the fall of 2009, and the awardees will work with NOAA’s National Estuarine Research Reserve System to sponsor collaborative research, engagement, education, and adaptive management, with the goal of

developing and applying science-based tools to address the impacts of coastal pollution and habitat degradation related to climate change.

Selected through a rigorous national competition, we have chosen the University of New Hampshire (UNH) to conduct the new program. The program will be led by Dr. Richard Langan, lead UNH PI, and includes the following elements:

- A NERRS –based collaborative, multidisciplinary, competitive research program to advance the application of technology to address land use issues, habitat change and restoration, and estuarine contamination;
- A nationally relevant educational strategy that integrates university-based training with applied research experience at NERRS sites to provide individuals with the skills necessary to better link research to application, decision making, and policy;
- A strategy to engage coastal science translation specialists and potential users of Program-sponsored research in the dissemination of Program-sponsored technology and information;
- And a national needs assessment focused on addressing the nexus between nonpoint source pollution, declining water quality, and habitat degradation that prioritizes gaps and barriers to implementing effective stormwater research and management, and identifies appropriate approaches to address these needs in partnership with the NERRS.

For more information, contact [Laurie McGilvray](#) or Dwight.Trueblood@noaa.gov.

Mercury Problems in Mobile Bay Limited to Peripheral Tributaries

Elevated concentrations of mercury and methylmercury in water, sediments, and biota in Mobile Bay were found largely in the more freshwater zones of the bay where freshwater delivery occurs. Concerns about mercury contamination in the area, raised earlier in the decade, can be largely put to rest. A three-year study of mercury in the bay, funded by NOAA through the Northern Gulf Institute, found highest mercury concentrations in the bay's delta area, in the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and in several sub-estuaries on the west side of the bay. Each of these areas has extensive fringing marsh which may contribute to elevated methylmercury concentrations which can end up in fish consumed by humans and wildlife. A follow-up study, in collaboration with researchers from Mississippi State University, will be looking to study the role of watershed transport, sediment delivery, and enhanced mercury methylation as contributors to the more spatially restricted mercury problem. For more information, contact David Evans at David.W.Evans@noaa.gov.

Variations in Algal Toxin May Influence Bloom Toxicity Management In Coastal Waters

In a July 2009 publication in the journal *Toxicon*, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)-funded researchers discovered that *Karenia brevis*, a harmful alga found in the Gulf of Mexico, produces more toxin that affects the nervous system (brevetoxin) and less toxin blocker (brevenal) in lower salinities. This suggests that management of coastal blooms should consider this potential for increased toxicity in order to protect animal health and economies. *Karenia* blooms are responsible for fish kills, mortality of protected species, neurotoxic shellfish poisoning, and respiratory difficulties in humans. Within this species, there was brevetoxin variability among different clones tested. While the overall brevetoxin and brevenal content was higher at open ocean salinities, the ratios varied with salinity. This research was supported by the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB) Program. For more information, contact Lara Hinderstein at Lara.Hinderstein@noaa.gov.

Changes to FKNMS Regulations Effective August 31

Staff from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) worked with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Policy and Permitting Division and NOAA General Counsel on minor changes to the FKNMS regulations. NOAA published a final rule for FKNMS, which will become effective on August 31. As part of these modifications, the definition of coral was amended to specifically include the common sea fan, *Gorgonia ventalina*, and Venus sea fan, *Gorgonia flabellum*. Both are important sanctuary resources: touching coral was specified as an injury and therefore, a prohibited activity in the FKNMS; the minimum distance between vessels and divers-down flags was amended to be 100 yards instead of 100 feet; prohibitions listed for Sanctuary Preservation Areas and Ecological Reserves also apply in Research-only Areas, and corrections were made to several citations that were out of date. For more information, contact [Lilli Ferguson](#).

With PORTS®, Ship Clears Bridge with Two Feet to Spare

Tim Osborn, NOAA Office of Coast Survey

Sasha Pryborowski, NOAA Communications & External Affairs

When a new Navy ship, the *USS New York*, required safe passage from the Avondale Shipyard on the west bank of the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico for a month of sea trials at the end of June, it relied on new NOAA technology at one critical juncture. Luckily, NOAA's [PORTS®](#) (Physical Oceanographic Real -Time System) — which collects and disseminates data regarding water levels, currents, salinity, and meteorological parameters critical to safe navigation in the nation's busiest ports and waterways — was in place on the Huey Long Bridge, in the Lower Mississippi River, at just the right time. And, I was there to see it happen.

The Lower Mississippi [PORTS®](#), to be fully functional by this fall, consists of two water current meters, a water level gauge and air-gap sensors on both the Huey Long and Crescent Connection bridges. Specialized air-gap technology measures the bridge's clearance — the distance between the bottom of the bridge and the surface of the water flowing underneath.

Northrop Grumman, the ship's manufacturer, needed the sensor data to make sure the ship could clear the bridge on its way out to the Gulf. [PORTS®](#) Director Darren Wright and I had briefed Northrop Grumman about the air-gap technology in early June. Soon after, [NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services \(CO-OPS\)](#) Director Mike Szabados and the Lower Mississippi River [PORTS](#) team started providing preliminary information on air-gap readings for the bridge, which continued up to the day of the ship's passage.

The *USS New York* would also have the benefit of NOAA's electronic navigation charts (ENC) for the Mississippi River, recently updated, which river pilots use to steer ships up and down the river. After integrating and analyzing all the necessary water and current data, the National Weather Service River Forecast Office, CO-OPS, the U.S. Coast Guard, Northrop Grumman, the Navy and local port authorities determined that Saturday morning, June 27, would be the best time for the ship to attempt passage under the bridge.

Initial calculations suggested the ship would clear the Huey Long bridge by about 18 inches. Given roughly 140 feet of clearance under the bridge, this meant the ship would occupy about 99.2 percent of the available space as it passed underneath.

At 3 a.m. Saturday, after a final round of sensor checks, NOAA signaled that the *USS New York* would clear. At 6 a.m., it set sail under tugboat guidance for the middle of the channel.

Szabados and Wright were standing on the bridge of the ship when, at 6:51 a.m., its two mast towers slipped under the Huey Long by a slim margin of only 2.1 feet. Only then did we all breathe a collective sigh of relief. “It was a great experience for NOAA to collaborate with Northrop Grumman and the Navy,” said Wright. “Using NOAA’s innovative PORTS® technology to help protect our nation’s ships and waterways makes for a great day at work and brings home the importance of what we do.”

You can watch a video of the USS *New York*’s PORTS assisted passage and learn more about air-gap technology by visiting the [NOS Web site](#).

Other NOAA News

MPA Center Announces Second Round of Nominations for National System of MPAs

On August 6, the MPA Center officially started the second nomination process for existing sites to nominate themselves for inclusion in the national system of MPAs. Eligible federal, state, territorial, and tribal MPA programs are invited to nominate some of all of their sites by November 6, 2009. A first round of nominations was held in the fall of 2008 and resulted in an initial group of 225 sites accepted into the national system. All nominated sites will be announced in the Federal Register and available for public comment on www.mpa.gov. After final review by the managing agency and the MPA Center, mutually agreed upon MPAs will be accepted into the national system. To see sites eligible for the national system, visit <http://mpa.gov/pdf/national-system/allsitesumsheet809.pdf>. For more information on the National System of Marine Protected Areas and the nomination process, including a nomination package: www.mpa.gov. For questions: Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov.

CZMA Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update Posted

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 receive the CZMA Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update by e-mail, please contact christa.rabenold@noaa.gov.

Read the latest issue at:

[Vol 7 CZMA Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update](#)

Secretary of Commerce Announces \$40 Million in Recovery Act Projects to Support Efficient Marine Navigation and Create Jobs

August 20, 2009



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

Commerce Secretary Gary Locke announced in Norfolk, Va. today \$40 million for critical hydrographic survey and chart projects across the United States that strengthen the economy, create jobs, and support safe and efficient marine commerce and trade. Funded by the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#), the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will allocate \$32 million to utilize hydrographic surveying contractors to collect data in critical coastal areas which are used to map the seafloor and update nautical charts.

"These Recovery Act contracts are an important investment in our nation's marine transportation system, which employs more than 13 million

people. Our waterways are facing unprecedented demands from marine commerce, but our seafloor mapping is outdated," Secretary Locke said. "Charting our coastal seafloors for the most up-to-date information gives ports and shippers important data to increase efficiency and safety, boosting our nation's long-term economic health."

Across our country, ocean transportation already contributes more than \$742 billion to the national economy. All commercial shipping vessels rely on NOAA's nautical charts to safely pass through U.S. waters. Those charts are generated and updated with data gathered by hydrographic surveys.

Recovery Act funding will be used to conduct 39 surveys, charting nearly 2,000 square nautical miles in the Chesapeake Bay, and in the coastal waters of Alaska, Washington, California, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and Virginia. Using the latest technologies, surveyors map the sea floor, measure the water depth, search the ocean for storm debris or accident wreckage, and record the natural features of coastal seabeds and fragile aquatic life.

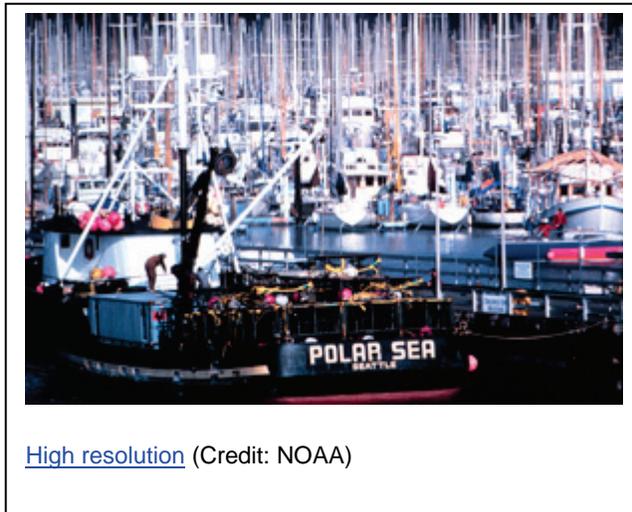
Between 2010 and 2020, the value of freight carried in and out of U.S. ports is predicted to increase 43 percent. To accommodate this growth, facility planners need hydrographic survey data to facilitate this century's bigger ships and busier waterways. The information gathered through these surveys will also support essential planning efforts along coastlines providing important data to help balance the conservation needs of fragile ecosystems and competing demands for coastal ocean space for navigation, alternative energy, or other commercial purposes.

[NOAA's Office of Coast Survey](#) is managing the projects. Surveying will cover high priority maritime areas on the U.S. Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf of Mexico coastlines. Surveying firms conducting the work are based in Alaska, California, Connecticut, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington.

The Recovery Act will fund private hydrographic survey firms to complete the following projects: Alaska – \$5.3 million. Seven surveys cover 674 square nautical miles. These surveys encompass Unimak Pass and shipping safe transit lanes. This critical area experiences high levels of commercial shipping

between the Pacific Northwest and Japan, with about 3,000 ships transiting annually. Surveys here will support safe navigation, protecting sensitive ecological resources and coastal tourism from the devastating effects of maritime accidents.

Washington – \$1.3 million. Four surveys cover 34 square nautical miles. The surveys in Puget Sound encompass an area west of Tacoma and Commencement Bay. This project supports the efforts of the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health and the Puget Sound Partnership. Data gathered during the survey will support safe marine transportation and characterize marine habitats. Coastal managers can also use the information to select appropriate sites for renewable energy projects and to monitor the effects of climate change.



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

California – \$3 million. Four surveys cover 112 square nautical miles. These surveys in the approaches to the San Francisco Bay area contribute to the California Seafloor Mapping Project, a multi-year partnership to develop the first comprehensive and seamless maps of California's seafloor and marine resources. The data acquired in this project will enhance efforts to manage marine ecosystems and coastal resources, to identify obstructions to navigation, and to better understand the California coast's unique natural hazards.

Louisiana – \$7 million. Seven surveys cover 441 square nautical miles. The surveys are located offshore of Terrebonne Bay, La. The area contains a high concentration of oil and gas production platforms and their associated pipelines. Supply vessels supporting oil and gas production, as well as the fishing fleet who navigate these waters rely on this information.

Florida/Alabama – \$3.4 million. Three surveys cover 104 square nautical miles. These surveys encompass the safe transit lanes, anchorages and approaches to Pensacola. U.S. Navy ships, coastal shipping vessels and fishing vessels navigate these waters regularly and their safe transit relies on this information.

Georgia/Florida – \$3 million. Five surveys cover 148 square nautical miles. The Brunswick, Ga. port is expanding after recent dredging operations requiring updated survey data for shippers and naval submarines transiting the area. Updated charts will also help to minimize the chance of ships striking endangered Right Whales and will benefit commercial and recreational fishermen who monitor bottom terrain.

Virginia – \$4.3 million. Five surveys cover 125 square nautical miles in the busy southern Chesapeake Bay. An increase in marine commerce, including the transport of liquefied natural gas, as well as significant recreational boating makes this a critical area for charting.

Virginia – \$4.1 million. Four surveys cover 219 square nautical miles in the Atlantic Ocean, most of which have not been surveyed since 1939 when lead line measurements were used. Heavy coastal shipping traffic in the area will benefit from updated charts.

An additional \$8.24 million in Recovery Act funds have been allocated for data collection activities that support the development of nautical charts and coastal planning. More information on funded projects nationwide is available on the [NOAA Recovery Act](#) Web site. The public can follow the progress of each project on the recovery site, which will include an interactive online map that enables the public to track where and how NOAA recovery funds are spent.

In the Gulf States

22nd Annual Alabama Coastal Clean-up

Show your support and concern for Alabama's waterways by participating in the 22nd Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. You or your organization can make a difference by volunteering to clean up our cherished coastal area. In its twenty-one year effort to clean up the coast, over 55,000 volunteers have removed 1,034,000 pounds of trash from 3,000 miles of shoreline. Join us this year as we continue to make Alabama the Beautiful! On the day of the event, come prepared with sunscreen, a hat, gloves, and shoes. It gets HOT!

About the Coastal Cleanup

For two decades the Alabama Coastal Cleanup has brought volunteers from across the state to the coast for one purpose to clean up the debris and trash they find there. In what sometimes feels as the endless pursuit of removing marine debris from the shoreline, these volunteers and sponsors have dedicated their time and energy to making the coast of southern Alabama a safe and beautiful place to visit and to live. The Alabama Coastal Cleanup engages local citizens to remove trash and debris from the Gulf Coast beaches and waterways, to identify the sources of debris, and to change the behaviors that cause pollution. In a continuing effort to clean up the coast, the 22nd Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup is scheduled Saturday, September 19, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Come show your support and concern for Alabama's waterways by participating.

In addition to tarnishing the natural beauty of our state, marine debris (trash and waste discarded in the water) kills thousands of marine mammals, sea birds and turtles each year. It also damages fishing nets, fouls propellers, and clogs water intakes.

The Alabama Coastal Cleanup is held in conjunction with the [International Coastal Cleanup](#) (ICC), which is the largest single-day volunteer event for the marine environment. Since Alabama joined the ICC in 1987, 55,000 volunteers in Alabama have removed a total of 1,034,000 pounds of debris and cleaned 3,000 miles of Alabama coastline.

Gather up your group today your family, church group, Boy Scout or Girl Scout group or come out on your own and make new friends! Volunteers receive a t-shirt, hugger, decal, and drinks in thanks for their participation not to mention the satisfaction of keeping Alabama beautiful! Check the [calendar](#) for times. Then [contact the zone captain](#) for the area of your choice to get involved!

Crucial Time for Manatee Sighting

Mobile Manatee Sighting Network Asking for Help from Boaters, Beachgoers, Public During Next Week

During this weekend and for the next week (August 15-21) manatee experts from US Fish and Wildlife (Daphne, AL); Wildlife Trust (FL); Sea 2 Shore Alliance (FL); and Sea World Florida will be assisting the Mobile Manatee Sighting Network (MMSN) to observe manatees in our local waters.

Data from the last two years indicate that this is a key time for manatees in Alabama waters. Last year near this time, there was a single sighting of 14 animals near the Causeway. This year there is even more vegetation in the rivers and delta compared to past years, and this additional food may support manatees in local waters.

“We are honored to have the opportunity to work with these manatee experts in our local waters,” said Dr. Ruth Carmichael, Senior Marine Scientist, Dauphin Island Sea Lab. “We have a rare opportunity to greatly expand our understanding of manatee feeding habits and movement patterns. This work will result in better informed decisions regarding their management and conservation of these endangered mammals.”

“Sighting calls from the public are absolutely crucial to this process,” she stressed. “We hope that while folks are out on the water this weekend and during the week, they will be particularly vigilant for manatees, and call our hotline as soon as they spot them. While these collaborators are here, we will have heavy ground, air and water presence to respond to sighting calls.”

The toll-free MMSN Hotline is 1-866-493-5803. The e-mail is manatee@disl.org. “We’re interested in ALL sightings,” stated Dr. Carmichael; “even old sightings that you may not have previously called in to us or e-mailed us. “But, of course, immediate reports are the most effective. That way, we can get to the location as soon as possible, and hopefully still be able to observe the manatees.”

Federal law prohibits interfering with the manatee’s behavior, or harassing them in any way. The best rule is to stay at least 100 feet away from them and report the sighting to authorities at MMSN as soon as possible. For more information on MMSN, visit <http://manatee.disl.org>.

Governor Riley Assumes Chairmanship of Southern Governors’ Association

MONTGOMERY - Governor Bob Riley on Monday became chairman of the Southern Governors’ Association, announcing a new effort to combine the resources and influence of Southern states to promote and protect mutual economic interests. Governor Riley takes over for 2008-2009 SGA Chairman and Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, who hosted the annual meeting of Southern governors last weekend in Williamsburg, Virginia.

“I want to thank Governor Kaine for his leadership over the past year,” said Governor Riley. “This year’s conference was productive and I think we each have gained knowledge that will be helpful as our nation debates comprehensive policy changes.”

As his chairman’s initiative, an effort Southern governors will focus on for the next year, Governor Riley chose “Securing Southern Economic Success.” The initiative will include:

- Collaborating on economic development efforts to benefit the region and “selling the American South” to the rest of the world
- Engaging Southern governors in ongoing discussions about federal policies that could negatively affect the South

Governor Riley said he is excited to assume the role of chairman and is ready to get to work. “I’m honored to serve as chairman of the Southern Governors’ Association for the next year,” said Governor Riley. “75 years ago this organization was founded to combine the resources and influence of Southern governors to protect the economic vitality of the American South. I think it’s fair to say we’ve been successful. What was once a mostly agricultural society has been transformed into an industrial and technological powerhouse that, when combined, makes up the third largest economy in the world.

“For the last decade or more, the South has set the pace for the rest of the nation in economic growth. There has been more positive growth, more investment, and more progress coming to the Southern States than perhaps any other region. We need to protect what has given us our competitive edge. As governors,

we need to take a hard look at what's going on in Washington and see how it could affect our states. I think we'll find, as we always do, that we have more in common than we sometimes realize.

“Over the next year, I'll work with my fellow governors to explore our individual economic goals and find ways to collaborate on promoting the South around the world. I will encourage candid discussions about federal issues and how certain policies could affect our states. We won't agree on every part of every issue, but we should always agree that our Southern perspective must be part of the discussion.

“This is a critical time for our Southern states. It's time for us to work together. It's time to use our collective influence to benefit the region. It's time to combine our economic development efforts to create a better future for our children and our grandchildren. This year I want us to commit to a collective effort unlike anything we've ever seen before. We can show the world what the American South has to offer – and we can do it together.”

The mission of the Southern Governors' Association is to use the power of connection, collaboration and communication in a bipartisan manner to solve regional problems, improve quality of life and secure an economically vibrant and prosperous American South. The SGA is composed of governors from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, and West Virginia. To learn more about the Southern Governors' Association and view videos of this year's conference, visit www.southerngovernors.org.

Florida DEP Celebrates National Marina Day with Waves of Green

~August 8 recognized as National Marina Day; DEP highlights Clean Marinas~

TALLAHASSEE – Florida Governor Charlie Crist recently signed a proclamation honoring Saturday, August 8, as National Marina Day 2009 – Celebrating America's Gateway to Boating. Designated marinas in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Clean Marina Program are hosting special events statewide throughout the day to highlight the importance of protecting Florida's waterways.

“With more than 1,350 miles of coastline and 50,000 miles of inland and coastal rivers supporting a \$14 billion marine industry, Florida's water resources are crucial to the state's economy and our environment,” said DEP Director of Sustainable Initiatives Deas Bohn. “Celebrating National Marina Day is a great way to highlight the importance of green maritime practices and to recognize our Clean Marinas for their role in protecting Florida's waterways.”

Since 2001, the second Saturday in August has been recognized as National Marina Day by the National Marine Manufacturers Association and the Association of Marine Industries. With the primary mission being public education, National Marina Day emphasizes the importance of the marine industry as a family-friendly gateway to rivers, lakes and oceans, and highlights the importance of being a steward of the environment.

Recognizing the importance of waterways, designated Clean Marinas throughout the state will provide clean boating outreach and information along with events and activities. To view National Marina Day events, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina/marina_day.htm.

“National Marina Day is an excellent time to recognize the hard work of Florida's Clean Marinas in protecting the environment,” said Clean Boating Partnership Chair Mark Leslie. “Members of DEP's Clean Marina Program stand out as environmental leaders.”

In conjunction with DEP, the Clean Boating Partnership developed Florida's Clean Marina, Clean Boatyard, Clean Marine Retailer and Clean Boater Programs in 1996 to protect Florida's waterways. The Florida Clean Marina Program designated its first member in 2000 and now has 198 Clean Marinas, 30 Clean Boatyards and nine Clean Marine Retailers.

The Clean Boating Partnership is a consortium of industry leaders who contribute time and input to the Clean Marina, Clean Boatyard, Clean Marine Retailer and Clean Boater programs, which DEP's Office of Sustainable Initiatives administers, to protect Florida's waterways. The partnership includes DEP, Marine Industries Association of Florida, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, University of Florida Sea Grant Program, United States Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. Through sponsored workshops, technical assistance, conferences and dedication ceremonies, the partnership educates the boating community about pollution prevention and protecting Florida's waterways.

With more than one million registered motorized vessels in Florida, environmental education within marine industries is the first step toward safeguarding the state's natural resources. By providing "green" education and alternatives the Florida Clean Marina Program helps ensure a sustainable future for the environment and a billion dollar marine industry. For more information about the Florida Clean Marina Program, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina.

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. To view the Governor's proclamation, visit http://www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina/files/marina_day_proclamation_2009.pdf.

Florida DEP Hosts Chinese Coastal Managers for Showcase of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves

~Tour to highlight local and state efforts to protect Tampa Bay~

TALLAHASSEE—The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) will host 12 members of the South China Coastal Biodiversity project for a tour of DEP's Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves. The tour, taking place August 19 – 21, will highlight local and state efforts to protect and restore Tampa Bay.

"We are excited to host the coastal managers from China at our aquatic preserves and are honored by the international recognition signified by this visit," said Lee Edmiston, DEP's CAMA Director. "State and local officials have worked for decades to better protect and preserve our coastal resources, especially at urban preserves like Tampa Bay. We are proud to have these efforts recognized and to share strategies for success with other countries."

Rapid development of the Tampa Bay coastline in the 1950s and 1960s significantly impacted resources in the bay resulting in dwindling seagrasses, natural shoreline, fisheries and habitat. This activity prompted government to designate portions of the bay as Aquatic Preserves and Outstanding Florida Waters. These protective measures have been ongoing for 40 years coupled with additional state and local actions to address runoff and point source pollution, limit the destruction of wetlands and closely monitor the bay's vitality have allowed the natural resources to flourish again.

Similar issues exist in the quickly developing areas of coastal China today. The progress made by Tampa Bay's resource managers to reverse the impacts of coastal development is visible today and illustrates the

far-reaching benefits of Florida's sustainable management practices. Visitors to Tampa Bay can now enjoy a clean bay with vital fishery stocks and seagrass meadows that provide marine habitat.

"There still is a lot of work to be done with regard to our environment, but the community can be proud of the work done around Tampa Bay," explained Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves Manager, Randy Runnels Ph.D. "Despite tremendous population growth in this watershed, trends in water quality degradation and seagrass loss have seen marked improvement with increased public awareness, and the efforts of numerous agencies and organizations."

The South China Coastal Biodiversity project is a joint effort of the United Nations Development Program, the Global Environmental Facility, China's State Oceanic Administration and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. For more information on the project, visit <http://www.sccbd.org/UserFiles/2008112610013185.pdf>.

CAMA manages three National Estuarine Research Reserves in the state, 41 aquatic preserves, the Coral Reef Conservation Program and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. CAMA's programs and activities are designed to help Floridians better understand and conserve the state's resources through research, education and preservation. CAMA has worked with the South China Coastal Biodiversity program on an ongoing basis through workshops, trainings and other activities since 2005. For more information on DEP's Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal>.

Florida Coastal Management Partnership Opportunities Announced

The Florida Coastal Management Program makes funds awarded under the Coastal Zone Management Act available as pass-through grants to Florida state agencies, water management districts, local governments, national estuary programs and national estuarine research reserves for priority projects that protect Florida's coastal resources and communities. In some cases, colleges and universities, regional planning councils and non-profit organizations may be eligible for grants in partnership with eligible applicants.

Coastal Partnership Initiative Grants

The [Coastal Partnership Initiative](#) (CPI) provides support for innovative local coastal management projects in four program areas: resilient communities, public access, working waterfronts, and coastal stewardship. Certain governmental, educational, and non-profit entities may apply for grants for community projects such as dune revegetation, citizen water quality monitoring and waterfront revitalization. Each year in August or September, the FCMP publishes a [CPI Brochure](#) and a Notice of Availability of Funds in the Florida Administrative Weekly to solicit proposals from eligible local governmental, educational, and non-profit entities. For detailed application procedures, funding eligibility, and review procedures, see the new [CPI Application Form](#) and read revised [Rule 62S-4, Florida Administrative Code. Coastal Partnership Initiative, Request for Applications, FY 10-11](#). Please refer to the [CPI Grant Application Revisions Brochure](#) for a summary of the changes to the Coastal Partnership Initiative grant program.

Grants to Florida State Agencies and Water Management Districts

The FCMP provides grants to Florida state agencies and water management districts for priority needs related to implementation of the [statutory authorities](#) included in the federally approved FCMP. Projects should contribute to the protection, management and enhancement of Florida's ocean and coastal resources and achieve the policy issues identified in the [Coastal Zone Management Act](#), including: natural

resource protection and management; hazard mitigation; water quality protection; siting of major developments; public access; redevelopment of urban, cultural and historic features; expedited governmental decision making; effective coordination with federal agencies; effective public and local government participation; comprehensive planning and management of living marine resources; shoreline erosion and land subsidence; and ocean resource management.

Each September, the FCMP publishes a Notice of Availability of Funds in the Florida Administrative Weekly to solicit proposals from state agencies and water management districts. Priority consideration is given to proposals that complement other state and federal ocean and coastal resource management programs and meet or reduce unmet needs. For information on submitting a grant application to the FCMP read new [Rule Chapter 62S-5, FAC](#).

Louisiana D.W.F. and Partners Host Elmer's Island Trash Bash

Mark September 19th on your calendar and come out and join forces with other dedicated volunteers to clean the beaches of Elmer's Island. Together with community stakeholders, the Louisiana Department Fisheries (LDWF), along with a multitude of outside project partners are hosting an Elmer's Island Trash Bash on Saturday, September 19, starting at 8 a.m.

The event is designed to encourage volunteers to clean up and work toward a litter-free beach that the public can enjoy. All citizens, social organizations and civic groups are invited to participate in this event. Event organizers include the LDWF, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), East Ascension Sportsman's League, Grand Isle Port Commission, LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Wildlife Federation and Louisiana Sea Grant.

BTNEP's volunteer website, <http://volunteer.btnep.org>, offers information on how interested individuals can volunteer as well as an event registration form. To expedite the registration process, all interested volunteers are asked to complete the registration form and send it to Mel Landry using the contact information listed on the form. Volunteers are asked to report to the staging area, where they will be assigned to a designated sector and receive trash collection procedures. All supplies, including bug spray, trash bags, gloves and water will be provided to volunteers for the event.

The public can access Elmer's Island Wildlife Refuge via an access road connecting La Hwy. 1 to the refuge beach area. To avoid excess traffic on the Elmer's Island access road and to minimize the numbers of vehicles on the beach, carpooling to the event is highly encouraged.

This event is made possible through generous contributions and support by our sponsors. Volunteers will enjoy both a complimentary lunch and breakfast, sponsored by the Grand Isle Community Development Team and Shaw Coastal.

The department is proud of the volunteers and businesses that support our mission of educating and engaging individuals to take responsibility for improving their community environment through litter prevention, waste reduction, education and beautification.

The event is registered with the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, which is traditionally held on the third Saturday of every September for the past 23 years. At last year's cleanup, nearly 400,000 volunteers collected more than 6.8 million pounds of trash in 100 countries and 42 US states. For more information, please contact Mel Landry at BTNEP at 985-447-0868 or at Mel@BTNEP.org.

Cheniere Energy and Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana Partner to Engage Cameron Students in Coastal Restoration

(Cameron, Louisiana) The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) and Cheniere Energy, through a national partnership with Restore America's Estuaries (RAE), have partnered with LSU's Coastal Roots Seedling Nursery Program to fund the development of a wetland plants program in four Cameron Parish schools.

The overall goal of the Coastal Roots Program is to assist students in developing an attitude of stewardship toward our natural resources and to provide them a constructive active learning situation in which they can explore strategies for sustaining our coastal ecosystems. Within the program, students install a nursery yard on school grounds in which they grow wetland plants.

"Once the plants are grown, we will take the students and their plants to a restoration site to give them hands-on experience in coastal restoration," said Natalie Snider, Science Director for CRCL.

Three of the four nursery yards have been installed. "The installation was delayed for almost a year due to impacts from Hurricane Ike. We have worked with each school to identify the specific needs of that school and are pleased to be moving forward with the installations," said Dr. Pam Blanchard, LSU College of Education.

The students grow various species of wetland plants, including smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*) and bitter panicum (*Panicum amarum*). These plants will be used at restoration planting sites along the Cameron shoreline and within Rockefeller Refuge.

The project is funded through a national partnership between Cheniere Energy, Restore America's Estuaries, and the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. Since 2007, this national partnership has worked together to address and collaboratively work on coastal restoration issues in Southwest Louisiana. "Cheniere Energy's commitment to restoring coastal Louisiana is a model for the kind of public-private partnerships Restore America's Estuaries and its member organizations feel are at the heart of real-world solutions to many of the problems affecting our coasts and estuaries," said RAE President Jeff Benoit. "We look forward to working with Cheniere in Louisiana and Texas in the coming years."

Cheniere Energy has become an environmental leader, committing financial funds and volunteer hours to on-the-ground restoration projects in the Chenier Plain. Steven Peyronnin, Executive Director at CRCL strongly supports the involvement of industry in coastal restoration. "The commitment of Cheniere Energy demonstrates the valuable role of industry in protection of our coastline. It is an important issue to the corporation as well as its employees," Peyronnin stated. "Cheniere Energy has also demonstrated a strong desire to educate our children about this issue through the Coastal Roots program."

In addition to funding the nursery yards, Cheniere Energy has provided funding for the teachers to attend a Coastal Roots Winter Workshop held this past January. "Cheniere is committed to the environment and the community in the areas where we live and work. This commitment is demonstrated through our construction and operational practices, as well as through our support of organizations such as RAE and CRCL. We are excited about these restoration projects and look forward to future efforts in our community," said Patricia Outtrim, Cheniere Energy Vice President, Governmental and Regulatory Affairs.

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana is a non-profit organization with a broad-based membership of individuals, businesses, civic, conservation, and religious organizations dedicated to the protection and restoration of a sustainable coastal Louisiana for over 20 years. "We are committed to the restoration and protection of our coast, including the unique landscape of the Chenier Plain," said Peyronnin. For more information contact: Natalie Snider at nsnider@crcl.org.

2008 South Louisiana Aerial Photography Now Available Online

South Louisiana (south of 31 degrees latitude) aerial photography taken in 2008, in color infrared (CIR) format and at one-meter resolution, is now available at the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources / Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration's SONRIS GIS website.

The SONRIS GIS website can be reached in a few different ways, one of which is via this URL: <http://sonris-www.dnr.state.la.us/gis/sonris/viewer.htm>. For more information, please contact: Chris Robertson at christopher.robertson@LA.gov.

Federal and State Agencies Aim To Rebuild Public Facilities Smarter

Release Date: August 11, 2009; Release Number: 1603-866

» [More Information on Louisiana Hurricane Katrina](#)

» [More Information on Louisiana Hurricane Rita](#)

ALEXANDRIA, La. -- Future storm damages are less likely to occur when the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) join forces and provide extra funding to mitigate public facilities so that they are better prepared to face and withstand impending hurricanes.

Like Katrina, Hurricane Rita devastated many Louisiana communities, causing massive wind and flood damages to public facilities throughout the state. One of FEMA's goals is to not only help restore public facilities, but also to provide the necessary funding so that they are able to return stronger than before. "In most cases, public assistance grants are used to repair or rebuild damaged facilities back to their pre-disaster conditions," said FEMA's Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office Acting Director Tony Russell. "However, a major FEMA objective is to mitigate, where it is cost effective, when restoring damaged infrastructure so that facilities are better able to prevent future damages. FEMA mitigation funding supports this proactive initiative to build back smarter than before."

For example, in the city of Alexandria in Rapides Parish the roof over the bleachers in Cheatham Ball Park was significantly damaged by Rita's category three winds. While FEMA's public assistance program has provided \$60,535 in funding to repair the damaged roof, nearly 30 percent of this overall funding, \$16,709, was provided as mitigation funding to rebuild it using stronger materials.

"Louisiana will always be faced with the threat of hurricanes and other storms, so it is imperative that we encourage our citizens across the state to rebuild safer, smarter and stronger, which the City of Alexandria did in this instance," said Paul Rainwater, executive director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. Part of the roof's mitigation measures includes replacing all the wooded roof joints with metal purlins, which will better support the roof rafters when they are exposed to high winds. In addition, metal purlins are also more able to withstand water than wooden roof joints.

When FEMA approves projects through its supplemental Public Assistance grant, the funds are transferred to a federal Smartlink account. Once the funds have reached this account, the applicant can request reimbursement from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) for eligible work completed. Obligated funds may change over time as the project worksheet is a living grant that is often adjusted as bids come in and scope of work is aligned.

The Public Assistance program works with state and local officials to fund recovery measures and the rebuilding of government and certain private nonprofit organizations' buildings, as well as roads, bridges and water and sewer plants. In order for the process to be successful, federal, state and local partners coordinate to draw up project plans, fund these projects and oversee their completion.

In general, FEMA's Section 406 Mitigation funding can only be applied to the damaged elements of a facility rather than to other, undamaged parts. These measures are considered by FEMA to be part of the total eligible cost of a repair or replacement project, and the applicant may not apply mitigation funding to alternate projects or improved projects if a new replacement facility is involved.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Louisiana D.W.F. Completes Oyster Reef Rehabilitation Project in Black Bay, Mississippi Sound, Lake Chien, Sister Lake and Calcasieu Lake

Five public oyster reef locations, four of which were part of a federally-funded oyster rehabilitation effort in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, were recently rehabilitated in May and June of 2009 by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).

The rehabilitation process involves placing cultch material (limestone, crushed concrete, oyster shell) on the water bottoms to provide a suitable substrate for larval oyster attachment. These efforts are the latest in a long line of reef building/rehabilitation projects (also known as cultch planting) performed by LDWF dating back to 1917.

"Once again LDWF is taking the additional means to ensure Louisiana's status as the number one producer of wild-caught oysters in the world," said LDWF Assistant Secretary of Fisheries Randy Pausina. "Not only will the efforts of our biologists and department boost Louisiana's economy, but they will also help preserve these seed grounds for the future."

In total over \$5.7 million was used to plant approximately 86,250 cubic yards of crushed limestone on nearly 481 acres of water bottoms. These projects are expected to result in harvestable quantities of marketable size oysters (three inches or larger) within 24 months post-project. Past projects have yielded benefit-cost ratios from 2:1 to as much as 20:1. By rehabilitating oyster reefs in coastal Louisiana, valuable habitat is also provided for many reef-associated animals such as shrimp, crabs, speckled trout and redfish.

Refer to chart below for more information on individual Oyster Rehabilitation projects:

Parish	Water Body	Limestone(cubic yds)	Acres of Water Bottom	Funding
Plaquemines	Black Bay	22,500	243	Federal
St. Bernard	Mississippi Sound	22,300	45	Federal
Terrebonne	Sister Lake/Lake Chien	22,600	156	Federal
Terrebonne	Lake Chien	11,350	22	Federal
Cameron	Calcasieu Lake	7,500	14.3	State
TOTALS		86,250	480.3	

The Black Bay, Mississippi Sound, Lake Chien and Sister Lake projects were funded through a congressional appropriation of federal hurricane-related fisheries disaster monies, part of \$53 million in fisheries resource recovery funds passed to LDWF by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The funding for the Calcasieu Lake project came from the Public Oyster Seed Ground Development Account. Funds in this account are collected by LDWF for impacts associated with construction activities - mainly oil and gas-related - occurring on or over the public oyster areas of the state and is used to rehabilitate these areas. For more information, please contact Patrick Banks at 225-765-2370 or pbanks@wlf.la.gov.

Louisiana D.W.F. Now on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has thrown its hat into the Web 2.0 ring by creating official accounts on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Flickr and Scribd.

The public can now watch LDWF videos on YouTube, keep up to date with the latest department news on Twitter, become a fan of LDWF on Facebook, read the latest regulations on Scribd and look at department photos on Flickr all free of charge. All of these social media devices are on LDWF's front page at www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

"These services offer the department additional channels to use when delivering departmental news, videos, photos or publications to the public," said LDWF Public Information Assistant Director Thomas Gresham. "We are encouraging everybody who utilizes these Web sites to sign up and follow us as we post new videos, photos and news feeds."

The official Web site addresses for each account are listed below:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Baton-Rouge-LA/Louisiana-Department-of-Wildlife-and-Fisheries/112762357891>

<http://twitter.com/ldwf>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/LAWildlifeFish>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ldwf/>

<http://www.scribd.com/ldwf>

For more information, contact Thomas Gresham at 225-765-2496 or tgresham@wlf.la.gov.
2009-236

Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force Seeking Sponsors

Planning for Oct. 17 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force has begun meeting in preparation for the 21st annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, to be held Oct. 17, 2009, from 8 to 11 a.m. The event brings together thousands of volunteers coastwide to clean more than 60 sites along the shoreline and barrier islands.

The Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, the planning committee for the Coastal Cleanup, comprises more than 40 individual groups, representing legislators, government agencies, corporate entities, military, colleges, small business, environmental groups and much more. Each of the 41 members of the task force is instrumental in organizing different aspects of the cleanup, such as debris removal, permissions for beach or waterway use, and recruiting volunteers and sponsorship. In 2004, Mississippi Gov. Haley

Barbour presented the task force with a Governor's Take Pride Appreciation Award for its work organizing and sponsoring the annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup.

The Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force began meeting in June and will be holding its third meeting in mid-August. Presently, the task force is focusing on recruiting sponsors for much needed supplies and promotion for the event. Among supplies needed are surgical gloves, trash bags, hand sanitizer, work gloves, 5-gallon buckets, large first aid kits and yard signs. Anyone wanting to sponsor the event should call Shelly Becker at 228-523-4051 or Lauren Thompson at 228-523-4053. Sponsorship levels for the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup are: Sea Turtle (\$5,000 or more), Shark (\$2,500-\$4,999), Dolphin (\$1,200-\$2,499), Cobia (\$500-\$1,199) and Mullet (\$100-\$499).

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), the world's largest single-day volunteer effort to clean up the marine environment, to identify the sources of debris and to change the behaviors that cause marine debris in the first place. During the ICC, hundreds of thousands of people across the world spend three hours combing the beaches and waterways to pick up trash that pollutes our waters, harms marine life, hampers tourism and poses health risks to beach-goers. Last year, volunteers removed more than 71 tons of trash from Mississippi beaches, shorelines and waterways during the cleanup.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is the state coordinator for the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup. For more information, visit www.mscoastalcleanup.org or call DMR Public Affairs at 228-374-5000.

Mississippi DMR Executive Director Walker Accepts Stratton Award on behalf of Gulf of Mexico Alliance

BILOXI, Miss. – Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Executive Director Bill Walker received the Julius A. Stratton Award for leadership in coastal management at the Coastal Zone '09 Conference in Boston July 20.



NOAA's National Ocean Service Assistant Admin. Jack Dunnigan, left, presents MS Dept. of Marine Resources Exec. Director Bill Walker with Julius A. Stratton Award.

The national award is presented by NOAA at the Coastal Zone Conference—an international, biennial symposium on coastal zone management—to acknowledge great leadership in the spirit of Dr. Stratton, the first leader of the U.S. Ocean Commission.

Walker has distinguished himself as a leader in addressing the many issues facing coastal and marine resources. He has served as DMR Executive Director since 2002 where he is responsible for the management of the state's marine resources, including fishing, boating, coastal management and the Coastal Impact Assistance Program.

He represents Mississippi interests on the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Management Committee. The Gulf of Mexico Program is a non-regulatory, inclusive partnership to provide a broad geographic focus on the major environmental issues in the Gulf. The partnership includes representation from state and local governments and the citizenry in each of the five Gulf States; the private sector (business and industry); federal agencies responsible for research, monitoring, environmental protection, and natural resource management; and the academic community.

Walker along with Trudy Fisher, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, also represents Gov. Haley Barbour in the Gulf of Mexico Governors' Alliance. As a result of a shared vision for a healthy and resilient Gulf of Mexico coast, the Gulf states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, supported by 13 federal agencies, formed the Alliance and developed the first Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts, which was released at the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit in 2006 as well as the second Action Plan released this past June at Capitol Hill Oceans Week in Washington, DC.

These far-reaching Governors' Action Plans, supported by the President in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, challenges the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to make tangible progress over the next five years on six priority issues: water quality, habitat conservation and restoration, environmental education, characterization of Gulf habitats, reductions in nutrient inputs, and resilient coastal communities.

Walker earned an M.S. and Ph.D. in soil microbiology/biogeochemistry from Mississippi State University and a B.S. in botany/microbiology from Southeastern Louisiana University.

The Julius A. Stratton Award is named for the eminent scientist and educator who chaired the blue ribbon national Commission on Marine Science, Engineering and Resources, which produced the 1969 report, "Our Nation and the Sea." This landmark report became the foundation for the Coastal Zone Management Act and many other important laws and programs for coastal and ocean conservation. CZ '09 will mark the eighth biennial awards program. The Stratton Award is intended to go to the person or group that has made the greatest difference in leading the cause for the coast, and who can best be labeled as the "Champion of the Coast."

"I was both humbled and extremely proud to accept this award on behalf of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance," Walker said. "This five-state partnership, with support from the federal agencies, NGOs, academia and the private sector, completed 95 percent of the 73 actions called for in the Alliance's first Action Plan and are now hard at work on the 97 actions in the second Plan, all of which are focused on sustaining the Gulf economy, improving ecosystem health, mitigating the impacts of and adapting to climate changes, and reducing harmful effects to coastal water quality."

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.

Goecker Hired as Habitat Restoration Specialist

Meg Goecker has joined the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium office at the Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center in Mobile, Ala., as a habitat restoration specialist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center.

She will be in charge of developing a community-based restoration program in Alabama. In her new position, she will give technical assistance to help improve restoration project design, ensure environmental compliance and advance restoration techniques. She also will support collaboration with public, private and agency partners to identify and prioritize restoration projects.

Goecker already is working with The Nature Conservancy on a project funded for \$2.9 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Nature Conservancy will create submerged

breakwater reefs along two stretches of shoreline, protecting more than 18 acres of habitat for submerged aquatic vegetation and creating almost 2 acres of oyster reef.

There are many other smaller restoration projects happening in Alabama through the NOAA restoration center and their partners, Goecker said. She recently returned to the United States after spending the last five years in Australia working on marine policies and working as an evaluation and reporting officer with the State of South Australia. Goecker has a bachelor's degree in biology from Michigan State University and a master's degree in marine science from the University of South Alabama Dauphin Island Sea Lab. "Every restoration project accomplished, no matter how small, will help return ecosystem services, as well as provide education to the next generation of natural resource managers," Goecker said.

Field Guide Focuses on Aquatic and Wetlands Plants

A new Web site offers photographs, habitat information and other details about more than 100 species of Mississippi aquatic and wetlands plants. The site, <http://jcho.masgc.org>, contains original, full-color photos that show plant details that can help scientists and plant enthusiasts distinguish similar species.

"The site boasts the inclusion of plants that are notorious for their hard-to-identify characteristics including 14 Eleocharis species and 12 Juncusspecies," said Hyun Jung "J." Cho, an assistant professor at Jackson State University.

A limited number of field guide books have been printed, and interested people should contact John Grigsby at the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (jgrigsby@masgc.org) or Cho at Jackson State University (hyun.j.cho@jsums.edu).

The Web site and books are the result of field surveys conducted in various wetlands and aquatic habitats in the state between 2007 and 2009. The field surveys were supported by the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, the Center for University Scholars at Jackson State University, Dauphin Island Sea Lab and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal Services Center in support of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance.

First of "Wetlands and Water Quality" Workshops Held

BILOXI, Miss. –The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's Coastal Training Program kicked off its three-day presentation of "Wetlands and Water Quality: Regulating Construction Impacts in Coastal Areas" on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Estuarine Education Center in Gautier. The workshop, presented in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' (DMR) Wetland Permitting Bureau, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region Utility Board and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, will also be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday Aug. 5, 2009, at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Park Campus in Long Beach, and on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, at the Diamondhead Country Club.

The workshop informs participants about state and federal environmental regulations that impact development in coastal areas. Attendees learn how construction affects wetlands and water quality as well as why and how government agencies regulate these impacts. Special agenda items include wetland habitat identification, function and value; an overview of the DMR's Coastal Wetland Regulations; an introduction to Public Trust Tidelands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Authorities, Section 7 Consultations for Impacts to Threatened or Endangered Species; and construction stormwater permitting and compliance.

The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is located near the community of Pecan in southeast Jackson County and includes wild lands and waterways from Bang's Lake to the Alabama state line. A major goal of the reserve is to provide for research coordination and dissemination of scientific data to the community and local decision-makers to provide sound information on which to base management decisions. The more than 18,000-acre reserve is home to several rare plant and animal species and serves as an essential nursery habitat for numerous important commercial and recreational fish species. The reserve is managed through state-federal partnership between DMR and its partners—the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi State University, the University of Southern Mississippi, the Nature Conservancy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. For more information, contact Marian Hanisko at marian.hanisko@dmr.ms.gov.

Mississippi DMR Enhances Oyster Reefs

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Shellfish Bureau planted cultch material Aug. 6-10, 2009, near the Pass Marianne Reef. Approximately 24,000 cubic yards of limestone were spread over 500 acres.



Workers use high-powered hoses to wash crushed limestone into the water near Pass Marianne Reef. (Photo courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources)

The limestone is placed on barges and is washed off with a stream using water cannons. This spreads the limestone evenly and creates an ideal surface on which oyster larvae can attach.

This project is part of the ongoing oyster reef habitat enhancement program funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hurricane Katrina Emergency Disaster Recovery Program (EDRP). More than 196,000 cubic yards of cultch have been spread over 3,600 acres of Mississippi oyster reefs through the EDRP.

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.

23rd Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup to be Held on Sept. 26

Patterson mobilizes volunteers for Operation: Target Trash

AUSTIN — The 23rd Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup will be held Saturday, Sept. 26 at 28 sites along the Texas coast. "It's time to mobilize the Adopt-A-Beach troops and target trash on Texas beaches," said Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office. "With nearly 10,000 volunteers, the Adopt-A-Beach army is a force to be reckoned with in the fight to keep our beaches clean."

Patterson urged Adopt-A-Beach volunteers to wear shoes, a hat and sunscreen and be ready to spend the day with other Texans who love the beach. Volunteers will be given data cards, gloves, pencils and trash

bags. Most sites along the coast conclude the day's cleanup with cold drinks, hot food and lots of fun. Volunteers can register at any of 27 check-in sites between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Sept. 26. Volunteers must pre-register for the St. Jo Island location in advance, as reservations are required due to limited access. Volunteers for St. Jo Island will check in on September 26 at 8 a.m. at Fisherman's Wharf, 900 Tarpon St., in Port Aransas.

Volunteers may register on-line at www.TexasAdoptABeach.org or become a fan of the Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach program on Facebook. Texans who can't make it to the beach but still want to support the volunteer effort can make a tax-deductible donation online at TexasAdoptABeach.org. Sponsorship levels range from \$25 to \$25,000.

For a complete listing of cleanup sites for the upcoming Fall Cleanup, to learn how you can participate, or for additional information on the Adopt-A-Beach Program, please visit www.texasadoptabeach.org or contact the GLO at 1-877-TX COAST.

The success of the Adopt-A-Beach Program is made possible not only by the generous efforts of tens of thousands of volunteers, but through the generous donations of community leaders and sponsors statewide. Shell Oil Company is the lead cleanup sponsor for 2009. Other statewide sponsors are the Newfield Foundation, the Ocean Conservancy, Flint Hills Resources Community Action Council, Halliburton and Johnson Controls.

Texas General Land Office Launches TexasBeachAccess.org

Temporary 4.5-foot elevation line marking the post-Ike public beach boundary ends

AUSTIN — Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, the state's top steward of public access to Texas beaches, today released detailed new maps showing the post-Ike boundaries of the public beach in Galveston and Brazoria counties with the debut of a new Web site, TexasBeachAccess.org.

Patterson said Monday the Texas General Land Office is transitioning away from the temporary 4.5-foot elevation line used to determine the boundary of the public beach after Hurricane Ike. The new maps on TexasBeachAccess.org show the post-Ike boundary of the coast, as determined by the Texas Open Beaches Act.

"As promised, I gave the natural line of vegetation a year to recover," Patterson said. "In those areas where it has recovered it will be the boundary of the public beach. In areas where it hasn't, I've drawn the line at mean low tide plus 200 feet."

The mean low tide line is the average of all the daily low tide lines over a 19-year period. The 200 foot mean low tide line (MLT+200ft) is a line 200 feet landward of the average low tide line. Patterson said despite the new line, he is not preparing a list of properties for enforcement actions under the Texas Open Beaches Act. "The key is public access," Patterson said. "If a structure is on the public beach but doesn't block public access and is not a health and safety risk for beachgoers, then it's likely no action will be taken."

As Texas Land Commissioner, Patterson is trusted not only with the stewardship of Texas beaches, but also with ensuring the right of every Texan to enjoy those beaches. "The Texas Open Beaches Act is the law of the land and until the Legislature or voters say otherwise, it is my job to uphold it," Patterson said. In November, Texans will be asked at the polls if they want to enshrine the Texas Open Beaches Act in the state Constitution.

Hurricane Ike wiped out the dunes and the natural vegetation that grows on them along miles of the beach in Galveston and Brazoria counties. According to the Texas Open Beaches Act — which guarantees the

public's right to enjoy Texas beaches — this natural line of vegetation determines the landward boundary of the public beach.

With so much of the natural boundary destroyed, Ike created unprecedented challenges for the Texas General Land Office and local governments regarding permitting decisions and determining the extent of the public beach easement. To speed along reconstruction, Patterson established a line at 4.5-feet above sea level as a temporary permitting line for local governments and the Texas General Land Office to use in the interim for emergency permitting and rebuilding. Additionally, this 4.5-foot line was used as a guide for debris clean up for the beach system. "With the cleanup over and recovery progressing, the 4.5-foot line has served its purpose," Patterson said.

Patterson said TexasBeachAccess.org will serve as an important tool for both beachgoers and Texans who own coastal property when it comes to understanding their rights and responsibilities under the Texas Open Beaches Act. TexasBeachAccess.org is easy to use, allowing users to click on a map of the Texas coast to see detailed local beach and dune protection plans. At TexasBeachAccess.org, Texans can find the closest access point to their favorite beaches and property owners can pull up detailed maps showing the line that defines the public beach. TexasBeachAccess.org also has a section devoted to helping Texans understand their rights under the Texas Open Beaches Act, which has ensured the public's right to enjoy Texas beaches for 50 years.

"TexasBeachAccess.org will give Texans the facts they need about this vital and unique Texas right," Patterson said.

Mobichairs Help Open South Padre Island Beaches to All

GLO rewards town's commitment to beach access with surf-ready wheelchairs

AUSTIN — Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson will declare South Padre Island beaches the most accessible in Texas and present the town with four new surf-ready wheelchairs at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 3. The celebration of beach access and demonstration of the chairs will take place on the beach, at Public Beach Access Point #14.

"The Town of South Padre Island's efforts to make the beaches accessible for all show real Texas hospitality," Patterson said. "These new Mobichairs will be the perfect compliment to all the other improvements they've made here that make this the most accessible beach in all of Texas."

Dune walk-overs big enough for a wheelchair and special mats that make sand easy to navigate are important considerations to ensure that the good times in South Padre Island can be had by all, said Mayor Robert Pinkerton Jr. "The beaches here are our bread-and-butter," Pinkerton said. "We want to make sure that no one is left out."

Amphibious wheelchairs like the ones awarded to South Padre Island will eventually be distributed to all of the top tourist beaches in Texas, thanks to money made available by the Texas General Land Office, Patterson said. Mobichairs can roll across the sand and even float in the surf. "These chairs, when combined with everything else South Padre Island has already done, really open up the beach for anyone with special needs," Patterson said. For more information on public beach access in Texas, visit www.TexasBeachAccess.org

Ofrenda Unveiling to Showcase Galvestonians' Personal Revival, Reflections, and Recovery Following Hurricane Ike

The City of Galveston-sponsored “*Revival and Reflections*” *Opening Ceremony and Torch Relay*, set for Tuesday, Sept.8, will be highlighted with the unveiling and dedication of the island’s very first *ofrenda*. This ceremony, unveiling, and dedication will be held at Fort Crockett Park, 4700 Seawall Blvd. in front of the 1900 Storm Sculpture, beginning at 5:30pm. Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas will officiate.

The *ofrenda* is a hand-crafted exhibit, made of metal in the form of a wave-like structure, designed to showcase individual “offerings” that will be hung/placed on the exhibit. These individual “offerings” - given in tribute or as a memorial to the Gulf of Mexico for all that it gives us and potentially takes away - will be especially significant as it reflect one’s personal loss and/or recovery from Hurricane Ike. The public is encouraged to present their individual piece of art/offering and have it displayed on the *ofrenda*. Up to 1,500 individual “offerings” can be accommodated on this wave-like structure. Personal “offerings” could include collages, drawings, poetry, photos, letters, or other personal mementoes that relate to one’s survival and recovery from Ike.

The public can bring their piece to this opening ceremony on Sept.8 or anytime after the ceremony. It is planned that the *ofrenda* will be on display through late October. Instructions as to how to add one’s piece to the sculpture will be provided. The individual “offering” should be no larger than 8” x 11.5”, weigh no more than ½ pound, and must be laminated. Holes need to be punched on all four corners so that it can be mounted to hang on the massive exhibit. Attachment devices to hang the “offerings” will be provided.

The concept of *ofrenda* is an integral part of the *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) celebration. *Ofrenda* translated from Spanish to English literally means “offering” and originates from the “Hispanic culture addressing the need to grieve and lay offerings for those people lost and for what they provided to them as an individual.”

“My hope and goal is that this *ofrenda* will encourage our community to come together and to share individual “offerings” that have helped each of us to survive and recover from this devastating storm,” explained Karla Klay, artist and creator of the “*Revival and Reflections*” *ofrenda*.

Local businesses and organizations that have donated materials and supplies to assist in the construction of this *ofrenda* include Broom Welding, Farmers Copper, G&M Welding, and Artist Boat.

For more information about the *ofrenda*, opening ceremony and torch relay, as well as other activities and events planned during the “*Revival and Reflections*” week, Sept 8-13, call the Galveston Island Visitors Center at 888.GAL ISLE (888.425.4753), visit online at www.galveston.com, www.cityofgalveston.org, www.recoverygalveston.org, or email to: info@galvestoncvb.com.

There will be two half circles totaling 80 linear feet. This will also have a repeated wave pattern 6 inches tall added across the top of the length, be acid washed and shiny, and be installed by G&M Welding on the 4th of September.

Virtual Barrier Islands Website

The Bureau of Economic Geology along with the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, has developed “A Virtual Tour of Texas Gulf Coast Barrier Islands” website. The website is a 3-D virtual model of the Gulf of Mexico and Texas coastal environments for use in the classroom and for the general public to explore how relative sea level change rise, caused by climate change and other causes, may impact the coastal zone.

Due to the amount of data contained in the 3-D model, it has been designed to run from the user’s local computer. You will need to download the installer application to your desktop – or any location you select – and then run the application to install the data and program on your computer. Click on the link below [galvr_installer.exe](#) and save (do not select run) the application to your desktop. Find the application ([galvr_installer.exe](#)) on your desktop and double click on the icon. The application will create a folder called [galvr](#) on your desktop that will house the model and data files. The installer may take a few minutes to operate. Once completed, open the [galvr](#) folder and double click on the application [galvr.exe](#) to launch the 3-D model.

Download installer: [galvr_installer.exe](#)

We have also created a lesson plan titled “Sea Level Changes and the Texas Coastal Environment” for use in the classroom ([SeaLevelRiseLesson.pdf](#)). This lesson encourages students to consider the impacts of increased greenhouses gases in the atmosphere and how they may effect climate change, sea level, and the subsequent effects on coastal environments. There is a PowerPoint presentation for teachers ([teacher_lesson_intro.ppt](#)) to use to introduce the lesson in their classrooms. To help students and teachers explore the virtual reality model, there is a 10 minute video ([GALVR_User_Video.wmv](#)) that explains how to navigate and manipulate the data within the model.

Lesson plan: [SeaLevelRiseLesson.pdf](#)

Teacher's introduction: [teacher_lesson_intro.ppt](#)

VR video: [GALVR_User_Video.wmv](#)

This project has been sponsored by the Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), the Meadows Foundation, and the Texas Coastal Coordination Council. The Texas Coastal Monitoring Program engages people who live along the coast in the study of their natural environment. High school students, teachers, and scientists work together to gain a better understanding of dune and beach dynamics on the Texas coast. Scientists from [The University of Texas at Austin](#) provide the tools and training needed for scientific investigation. Students and teachers learn how to measure the topography, map the vegetation line and shoreline, and observe weather and wave conditions. By participating in an actual research project, the students obtain an enhanced science education. Furthermore, public awareness of coastal processes and the [Texas Coastal Management Program](#) is heightened through this program. The students' efforts also provide coastal communities with valuable data on their changing shoreline.

Artist Boat Brings Life Back To Galveston Beaches

By George Lee



Restoring the island's beaches means far more than sand replenishment. We've read stories about replacing sand lost to erosion along the beachfront, and seen the trucks lumbering up and down the seawall, earth movers darting along the beach, spreading tons of beach sand from the seawall base to the Gulf's tide. Galveston's tourism industry demands this attention, but what of the habitat lost to Ike's destructive power?

The Artist Boat is quietly replacing the plant life along the beaches ravaged by the angry waves and devastating surge that Ike pushed before it and swept across the land. Artist Boat is a non-profit organization with two

basic but worthy purposes vital to our coastal environment.

Artist Boat educates children, using art, kayak trips and tours of our precious wetlands, to teach them the value of respect for the land and sea. Artist Boat, through its Habitat Restoration Adventures (HRA), also takes action in preserving and restoring fragile ecosystems damaged by storms and human neglect. Artist Boat staff, led by executive director Karla Klay, are currently working daily on the west end of Galveston Island planting thousands of indigenous plants that succumbed to the wall of water rammed over the sand by the disastrous hurricane in September.

Nicole Ekstrom, Habitat and Stewardship Coordinator, leads the effort, with generous grants from the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, and support from homeowners living along the coast on Galveston's west end.

Everyone knows what beach replenishment is, but how many really understand *habitat restoration*? Think of it as a combination of science and landscaping.

Science drives the selection of plants and where to place them, as well as consideration for the creatures that make their homes there. Nicole holds a Masters of Science degree in marine biology and grew up on South Padre Island, giving her a practical knowledge of the coastal environment. Landscaping involves the physical planting and care of the salt grass, sea oats, bitter panicum, sea purslane and railroad vine that Nicole is bringing back to the dunes and beaches.

Why the emphasis on planting? There are a number of reasons, one of the most important being that the plant roots will hold the sand in place, serving the same purpose as rebar reinforces concrete with an internal structure, as roots provide a framework to protect the dunes from wind and water erosion. A very important factor that is often overlooked, is the shelter plants provide for the hundreds of creatures that inhabit the beaches, and depend on the vegetation for their survival.

Birds, reptiles, crabs, insects and a multitude of diverse species make their homes within the protection of the plants, where they hide, feed and reproduce in the shelter of the vegetation. This in itself is fascinating and critical to every organism, near and far from the sea, but also a valuable learning experience for the children in our area. An integral part of Artist Boat's HRA service, is to bring school children to the sites,

where Nicole teaches them about the habitat ecosystems and leads them in planting, watering and beach exploration.

Usually working with groups of approximately twenty children and their homeroom teacher, often traveling in by bus from Houston, she guides them in the habitat restoration as they work together in teams. It's a wonderful experience for them in a number of ways. They learn respect for the land and the creatures that share it with us. They are able to enjoy the sun, sea and fresh gulf breeze, while participating in something truly important. Being young urban grade school students, they may not appreciate the valuable service they are performing, but Nicole emphasizes this in the three-hour sessions. When they return to their school in the afternoon, they have exciting stories to tell and a bag of seashells, flotsam and jetsam collected from her informative and entertaining beach walk, which Ms. Ekstrom supervises at every HRA session.

While restoring the beach habitats, Artist Boat is also providing a fun filled experience for the kids, which truly earns its name as "adventure"!

16th Annual Border Energy Forum Returns to Texas

The Texas General Land Office will lead the conference, focusing on efficiency and sustainability

AUSTIN — The U.S.-Mexico Border Energy Forum will be celebrating its Sweet 16 by coming back to Texas this October, for the first time since 2003 and the first time ever in Houston. The Texas General Land Office will lead dozens of U.S. and Mexican businesses, government agencies, universities and NGOs in this year's Border Energy Forum in Houston, Oct. 15-16. Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson will speak at the conference, which is entitled "Energy and the Environment: Good Border Business."

"Every year, great minds join forces to discuss ways the U.S. and Mexico can improve energy efficiency along our border," Patterson said. "Nothing makes more sense than developing better, cheaper and cleaner energy – and that's what we'll be talking about in Houston."

The future of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects throughout the American Southwest and northern Mexico tops this year's agenda. Energy officials from Canada will also attend. Under Patterson, the General Land Office has been a pioneer for sustainable energy in Texas and nationwide.

In 2005, Patterson awarded the first offshore wind leases in the nation. In 2008, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded funding to the Land Office to build a 45-kilowatt solar array in San Benito to help power the city's water treatment plant. In July, the Land Office awarded a wind lease to build the world's first green data center, right in the Texas Panhandle.

Along with the the Texas General Land Office, sponsors of this year's forum include BP America, Reliant Energy Solutions, The Energy Council, Center for Legislative Energy and Environmental Research, Texas A&M energy Systems Laboratory, Rice University, Clean Energy, West Texas Gas, Inc., El Paso Corporation, Thompson & Knight LLP, The University of Texas at Austin, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, North American Development Bank, U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Program and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Workshops will cover everything from transportation fuels and carbon solutions to natural gas and energy policy. Special events include a reception at the Houston Museum of Natural Science and an energy tour of the Port of Houston.

“This forum is all about maximizing our energy dollars, while minimizing environmental impacts,” Patterson said. “When energy leaders of this caliber get together, innovative thinking comes easy.”

For more information, including a complete list of partners, schedule and registration information, please visit www.borderenergyforum.org.

Galveston Awarded \$20 Million Under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program For Hurricane Ike

» [More Information on Texas Hurricane Ike](#)

TEXAS CITY, Texas -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded more than \$20 million in hazard mitigation grants to the city of Galveston to acquire 64 homes that suffered extensive damage as a result of Hurricane Ike. One \$15.3 million grant was obligated to Galveston for authorities to acquire 46 residential properties located in the 100-year floodplain. Another grant provides \$5.4 million to be used for the acquisition of 18 properties in the 100-year floodplain.

The funds are made available to the state of Texas through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), with the HMGP covering 75 percent of the project cost and the remainder coming from the applicant or other nonfederal sources. FEMA has set aside \$395 million for the HMGP in Texas.

"With these grants we are helping to move dozens of families out of harm's way," said Federal Coordinating Officer Brad Harris. "By removing the structures and ensuring no others are built at those locations, we also are keeping history from repeating itself."

As part of the agreement among the city of Galveston, the state and FEMA, the spaces where the homes once sat will be returned to their natural state and left open. The spaces may become residential parks or natural open areas. Removing flood-prone structures from the floodplain eliminates future damages and health and safety risks for those homeowners and any potential rescuers. It also eliminates the need to provide emergency response services, subsidized flood insurance and federal disaster assistance to the residents. Additionally, the acquisitions will reduce future costs to the National Flood Insurance Program through fewer flood insurance claims.

"These acquisitions show the commitment among local, state and federal government officials to speed recovery and protect lives in Galveston," said State Coordinating Officer Ben Patterson.

The goal of the HMGP is to help local communities and citizens recover from disaster and take steps to prevent or reduce future disaster losses. FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Other News

Ocean Conservancy's 24th Annual International Coastal Cleanup to be Held Saturday, September 19th

Online Registration Opens with 2,500 Cleanup Sites Around the World, Thousands More to be Added Soon. Sign up to Clean up! Locate a Cleanup site near you and join the hundreds of thousands of volunteers around the world Start a Sea Change this September

(Washington DC) — Today, Ocean Conservancy announces a new searchable online registration system for the International Coastal Cleanup helping volunteers find a Cleanup site in their hometown. The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest volunteer effort to help protect the ocean. Last year, nearly 400,000 volunteers hit their local beaches, lakes, and rivers with a common mission of improving the health of the ocean and waterways. On one day, they removed and tallied 6.8 million pounds of debris, from 6,485 sites in 100 countries and 42 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. To find a 2009 Cleanup site near you visit: www.oceanconservancy.org and search on a world map or by town or zip code.

"The ocean is our life support system yet marine debris continues to threaten its health. We know that trash travels. Wherever we live, each of us has a responsibility to prevent litter from trashing our beaches and hurting coastal economies, injuring and killing marine wildlife, and choking an already threatened ocean ecosystem," said Vikki Spruill President and CEO of Ocean Conservancy. "Trash in the ocean is one of the most widespread pollution problems threatening our ocean and waterways and it's entirely preventable."

Each year, volunteers from around the world spend a few hours removing trash and debris from beaches, lakes, rivers and other waterways keeping track of every piece of trash they find. Ocean Conservancy uses that information to produce the world's only annual country-by-country, state-by-state index of the problem of marine debris. The report is shared with the public, industry, and government officials as we work together to end to problem of marine debris.

"The Cleanup gives everyone a chance to be a part of an important global movement to end the tide of ocean trash," says Dianne Sherman, Director of the International Coastal Cleanup. "This new automated registration system will help volunteers from Boston to Bangladesh find a site near them and join in the effort to start a sea change."

For additional information about the International Coastal Cleanup, and to sign up to be a part of the next wave of volunteers visit: www.oceanconservancy.org/cleanup

Get Involved in National Estuaries Day on September 26th 2009!

Organize or Participate in National Estuaries Day activities that Celebrate our World Estuaries!

National Estuaries Day is an annual celebration of the vibrant coastal areas where rivers meet the sea-estuaries. Celebrated on the last Saturday in September, National Estuaries Day is a great opportunity to learn more about these magical ecosystems and how you can help to protect them. Whether you live close enough to visit your local estuary, or you virtually transport yourself to an estuary anywhere in the world via the Internet; take some time on September 26th, or any day of the year, to explore these amazing places.

More on National Estuaries Day...

Like a tide of awareness about the state our estuaries, National Estuaries Day rolls in every last Saturday on the month of September. National Estuaries Day will be celebrated September 26, 2009.

- National Estuaries Day was established in 1988 as part of Coast Weeks, this annual event is the inspiration for all of those who love and care for our nation's estuaries.
- The purpose of National Estuaries Day is to promote the importance of estuaries and the need to protect them.
- It is also the occasion for a public-awareness campaign to inform people from coast to coast about their connection to these beautiful places and how they can encourage its healthy future.
- Countless National Estuaries Day activities occur nationwide, from photography contests in Florida, canoe trips in Washington, estuary clean-ups in North Carolina, exhibits at state capitals, guided estuary tours in Texas, to festivals in California.
- Since its inception in 1988, National Estuary Day has strengthened the partnership between the National Estuary Program (NEP) and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). The two programs protect more than 50 estuarine habitats that have been federally designated as living resources.
- Help spread the word that estuaries are vital to migratory species; provide critical habitat for a variety of marine plants and animals; help prevent coastal erosion; are important recreational and tourist destinations; and that estuaries are critical for our future and the health of the oceans.

How can celebrating National Estuaries Day help protect our estuaries and the health of the ocean?

Most people are simply unaware of how much they depend on estuaries and how much their actions can have an effect in other places that might not seem to be so close to home. You might think that your home, school or office is thousands of miles away from the nearest coast, but what each of us does affects an estuary and even people's health. This connection is due, in part, from the flow of water seaward through systems of rivers, lakes, and wetlands, called watersheds. Much of the air we breathe and water we drink, in turn, come to us on atmospheric currents from oxygen produced by ocean plants and moisture evaporated from the sea. By joining with people all over the world in celebrating National Estuaries Day you can help others understand that no matter where we live we are connected and we all share one world ocean, with our fate inextricably tied to the future health of our estuaries and ocean.

National Estuaries Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate these wonderful places called estuaries. Be creative! Take initiative and organize an event or involve others to do something positive that will help protect our estuaries. Visit <http://www.estuaries.gov/estuaries101/GetInvolved/Default.aspx?ID=153>.

Coastal and Estuarine Science News- August 2009

Coastal and Estuarine Science News (CESN) provides summaries of selected articles from the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation's journal, *Estuaries and Coasts*. The summary articles emphasize management applications of the scientific findings and can be found online at <http://www.erf.org/cesn/>.

Snook Diet Diversity Goes, With the Flow, in Florida Creeks

Altering freshwater flows into estuarine nursery areas is one of the key ways in which development of watersheds can contribute to habitat degradation. The increase in paved surfaces and concomitant decrease in wetlands and other natural habitats can alter the source, timing, and velocity of freshwater flows, thus influencing salinity patterns. Some species' adaptation to limited salinity ranges or specific temporal patterns in salinity and flow means that these changes can be a problem. For example, a study in four southwest Florida creeks in the Charlotte Harbor watershed indicates that alteration of freshwater flow has impacted juvenile snook feeding habits and trophic ecology.

The researchers examined juvenile snook stomach contents and used stable isotope analysis to examine fish diets and trophic status in "less degraded" and "more degraded" mangrove creeks. The more degraded creek watersheds had extensive upland development which altered flow regimes, causing short hydroperiods, scouring, and reduced salinities. The diets of the fish caught in the less degraded creeks was more diverse than those of fish in the more degraded creeks. Total number of prey items was twice as high in the less degraded sites, and total weight of prey was higher as well. Stable isotope analysis suggested greater inter-individual diet variation in snook taken from the less degraded sites, and consequently dependence on a few dominant prey items in the more degraded creeks. These results also indicated that a fundamental shift in the food web has taken place following human alteration of freshwater flows in these systems.

Although more research is needed to fully link the observed changes in diet to growth and survival and ultimately to recruitment, managers should note that 25% of US coastal habitats are expected to be developed by the year 2025. More flow alteration, and other anthropogenic impacts, are likely to be on the way.

Source: Adams, A. J., R. K. Wolfe, and C. A. Layman. 2009. Preliminary examination of how human-driven freshwater flow alteration affects trophic ecology of juvenile snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*) in estuarine creeks. *Estuaries and Coasts* 32(DOI 10.1007/s12237-009-9156-x). (View Abstract: <http://erf.org/cesn/vol32n4r2.html>)

N P Reductions Necessary to Control Eutrophication in Coastal Waters

Eutrophication is one of the most serious problems faced by estuarine and coastal ecosystems. To address it, controls on nutrient loadings are clearly needed, but which nutrients? Decades of research have confirmed that phosphorous is limiting in freshwater systems. In response to that information, management steps have been taken all over the world to limit P loading to freshwater ecosystems, with often remarkable results.

In coastal waters, nitrogen has historically been considered the limiting nutrient, in part because while P is "trapped" in receiving waters, N is fixed and lost to the atmosphere. However, anthropogenic phenomena affecting both sides of the N:P ratio have combined to increase that ratio in coastal waters: Human activities have contributed an overabundance of nitrogen loadings to these ecosystems, while upstream nutrient controls focusing exclusively on removing P have also increased downstream N/P ratios. In a 2008 paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, it was suggested that effective

eutrophication control can be achieved in both freshwater and coastal ecosystems by controlling P only, based on research done in an experimental lake. The conclusion of the 2008 paper was that because N₂ fixation can respond to meet ecosystem N requirements in a regime of P enrichment, P ultimately controls eutrophication and there is no pressing need for N input controls. A paper appearing in a recent issue of *Estuaries and Coasts* questions this finding. Evidence is presented that both N and P must be reduced to battle eutrophication in coastal waters. The *Estuaries and Coasts* paper points out that nutrient dynamics in coastal and estuarine waters are quite different from those in freshwater systems such as the experimental lake described in the 2008 paper. For example, because it controlled by a wide array of physical-chemical and biotic processes, estuarine and coastal N₂ fixation generally does not satisfy ecosystem-level N demands, causing these waters to remain N-limited and hence sensitive to N over-enrichment. Furthermore, upstream nutrient management actions such as removal of P alone have exacerbated N-limited downstream eutrophication. The author emphasizes that control of both N and P is needed for long-term management of eutrophication in both types of systems.

Source: W Paerl, H. 2009. Controlling eutrophication along the freshwater-marine continuum: Dual nutrient (N and P) reductions are essential. *Estuaries and Coasts* 32(DOI 10.1007/s12237-009-9158-8). (View Abstract: <http://erf.org/cesn/vol32n4r3.html>)

Schindler, D.W., R.E. Hecky, D.L. Findlay, M.P. Stainton, B.R. Parker, M. Paterson, K.G. Beaty, M. Lyng, and S.E.M. Kasian. 2008. Eutrophication of lakes cannot be controlled by reducing nitrogen input: Results of a 37 year whole ecosystem experiment. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA* 105: 11254–11258. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.0805108105 .

Additional Information: For another response to the PNAS article, see Conley, D. J, H. W. Paerl, R. W. Howarth, D. F. Boesch, S. P. Seitzinger, K. E. Havens, C. Lancelot, & G. E. Likens. 2009. Controlling eutrophication: Nitrogen and phosphorus. *Science* 323: 1014-1015.

Satellite Data Provide Critical Information on the Really Big Picture

The SeaWiFS satellite mission has been ongoing for about ten years, collecting images of the ocean which can be transformed into valuable data about chlorophyll concentrations. A wealth of information relevant for science and management at large spatial scales can be gained from examination of these dynamic maps. A recent paper discusses the wide range of potential uses of these data, providing examples of useful indicators derived from the data for the northwest Atlantic and offering guidelines to those that might want to utilize this unique treasure trove. Combining the SeaWiFS data with sea surface temperatures taken from another satellite monitoring program (NOAA/NASA AVHRR Pathfinder), the authors examined trends in 19 indicators, including the start, duration, and amplitude of spring and fall phytoplankton blooms, phytoplankton productivity, size structure of the algal cells, and presence of diatoms in blooms. The most pronounced signal in the data is the seasonality of phytoplankton concentrations, characterized by a strong bloom in the spring and a weaker one in the fall. The authors note a high degree of interannual variability in the phenology of these blooms, which could be of critical importance to the survival of larval fish. Variations were also observed in the amplitude and duration of the blooms. The data indicate that this large region can be divided into four ecological provinces (polar boreal, Arctic, NW Atlantic shelf, north Atlantic drift) whose boundaries fluctuate somewhat with variations in physical forcing factors.

The massive amount of data provided by SeaWiFS in the past ten years is a boon to researchers, but it could also be an obstacle: The mass of data is indigestible unless steps are taken to consolidate and average the information appropriately. The authors warn that data averaging can be misleading if it is carried out over more than one of the four ecological provinces. However, “too much data” is a good problem for scientists and managers to have, as long as data averaging is done carefully.

Source: Platt, T., S. Sathyendranath, G. N. White III, C. Fuentes-Yaco, L. Zhai, E. Devred, and C. Tang. 2009. Diagnostic properties of phytoplankton time series from remote sensing. *Estuaries and Coasts* 32(DOI 10.1007/s12237-009-9161-0). (View Abstract: <http://erf.org/cesn/vol32n4r4.html>)

Coastal and Estuarine Science News, a program of the Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation, is funded by the Ocean and Coastal Protection Division of USEPA to strengthen the link between science and management in coastal systems. The opinions expressed are those of the authors. Publication does not imply endorsement by CERF or USEPA. CESN is written by Nancy Steinberg, nsteinberg@charter.net.

Janine Powell Named New Director, USGS National Wetlands Research Center

LAFAYETTE, La. — Dr. Janine E. Powell is the new director of the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wetlands Research Center, headquartered in Lafayette, La. Dr. Powell has previously led another USGS research center and has years of research experience in Mississippi. Dr. Powell said, "I am very pleased to be returning to the South where I contributed earlier as a scientist. My new role in leading this prestigious National Wetlands Research Center is an incredible opportunity to influence research, development and application in these critical systems, and I am deeply honored." She replaces Dr. Gregory J. Smith, center director since December 2004. He will now be director of the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Md.

Dr. Powell has 28 years of research experience with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of the Interior. Most recently she served as the assistant station director for Strategic Management and Accountability with the USDA Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station in Fort Collins, Colo.

From 2007 to 2008, Dr. Powell was director of the USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, N.D. There, center research included waterfowl and other migratory birds west of the Mississippi River, the ecology of grasslands and wetlands of the northern and central plains, threatened and endangered species, and statistical and geospatial analyses, models and monitoring.

Prior to that, Dr. Powell was affiliated with various USDA research. She was with the USDA Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station from 2002 to 2007, primarily as assistant director for research. She was responsible for overseeing research units in 12 Interior West states, where research focused on forest and rangeland issues. She also assisted in coordinating science needs in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

From 1998 to 2001, Dr. Powell was a lead scientist at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service Formosan Subterranean Termite Research Unit based at the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, La., though she was located in Stoneville, Miss., at the Stoneville Research Quarantine Facility. She was responsible for developing biologically based control technology for management of the Formosan subterranean termite.

Dr. Powell was project leader for the USDA Forest Service's Southern Research Station Wood Products Insect Research Unit in Starkville, Miss., from 1995 to 1997. There, research led to new knowledge and methods for detecting, monitoring and controlling wood products pests.

Dr. Powell was also a staff research forest entomologist and staff budget coordinator for the USDA Forest Service, Forest Insect and Disease Research staff in Washington, D.C., from 1992 to 1995. She assisted in planning, formulating, and tracking insect and disease research efforts nationally.

She was research leader from 1991 to 1992 for the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Northern Grain Insects Research Laboratory in Brookings, S.D. She guided research to develop integrated pest management systems of insect pests of corn and small grains.

Dr. Powell was an entomologist at the Agricultural Research Service Southern Insect Management Laboratory in Stoneville, Miss., from 1981 to 1991. She managed the Stoneville Research Quarantine Facility, was a supervisory research entomologist at the Insect Rearing Research Unit in Starkville, Miss., and a researcher in Stoneville. During those 10 years Dr. Powell developed new knowledge on the biology of field crop insects to improve their control, especially by using natural enemies in cotton in the Mississippi Delta. She studied the use of imported and native natural enemies to manage insect pests. She worked with partners at many universities, including Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.

Dr. Powell received a Ph.D. in entomology from Clemson University in South Carolina in 1981; a master's degree in biology from State University of New York College at Plattsburgh in 1977; and a bachelor's degree in forest biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse in 1975.

USGS provides science for a changing world. For more information, visit www.nwrc.usgs.gov or www.usgs.gov.

Dept. of Interior and FERC Issue Guidance on Wave, Tide, and Current Projects

On August 4, the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) jointly released their *MMS/FERC Guidance on Regulation of Hydrokinetic Energy Projects on the OCS*. The new guidance document explains general requirements, lease and license procedures, lease and license terms, financial assurance requirements, fee structures, and other pertinent information for the development of the OCS. Regarding hydrokinetic energy projects in the OCS, MMS has authority over site leases and FERC has authority over operating licenses. To read the guidelines: <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/industry/hydrokinetics/pdf/mms080309.pdf>.

New Online Toolkit for Conservation Advocates

Communities are increasingly turning to the ballot box to secure new conservation funding at the same time as individual use of the Internet for advocacy has expanded. Harnessing the power of these two forces, The Conservation Campaign (TCC) this week launched a web-based Campaign Toolkit to empower local conservation advocates.

This portal of tools, information and assistance for citizens seeking to preserve and enhance their communities' natural areas, parks and waterways by passing ballot initiatives for conservation funding is available at [The Conservation Campaign's website](http://www.conservationscampaign.org).

Created as an affiliate of The Trust for Public Land in 2000 to serve the conservation community, The Conservation Campaign (TCC) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation that mobilizes public support for ballot measures and legislation that create public funds to protect land and water resources. Learn more at <http://www.conservationscampaign.org>.

Grant Opportunities

CELCP Reopens Limited FY 2010 Competition

The Fiscal Year 2010 Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) competition has been reopened for 30 days to give eligible States and territories the opportunity to adjust project proposals to comply with changes in eligibility criteria and program priorities. The due date for proposals is September 18. The Federal Register Notice and full funding opportunity notice with application materials are available on <http://www.grants.gov/> and on the [CELCP Web site](#). By reopening the CELCP competition, applicants for grants to conserve coastal land will have the opportunity to make adjustments in proposals based on new legislative requirements in the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009. For more information, contact [Elaine Vaudreuil](#).

National Sea Grant Law Center FY2010 Grant Competition

The National Sea Grant Law Center is pleased to issue the RFP for its 2010 Grant Competition. The Law Center is seeking proposals for one-year legal research and outreach projects of relevance to the Sea Grant network. The RFP is online at <http://nsglc.olemiss.edu/SGLC%202009%20RFP.pdf>. Letters of Intent are due **October 2, 2009** and Full Proposals **December 11, 2009**. The total funding level is anticipated to be \$225,000 and the recommended funding request is \$25,000. For more information, please contact Stephanie Showalter at sshowalt@olemiss.edu.

NOAA CSCOR Competitive Grants Announced

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) July Omnibus Competitive Grants announcement has been published for availability of grant funds for Fiscal Year 2010. Announcements of Opportunity have been issued to submit proposals to the Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (CSCOR)/Coastal Ocean Program for the Coastal Hypoxia Research Program (CHRP), Harmful Algal Blooms Program (i.e., ECOHAB, MERHAB and PCMHAB) and Sea Level Rise (i.e., Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise Program).

[Proposals under the COASTAL HYPOXIA RESEARCH PROGRAM \(CHRP\) closes 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time October 14, 2009.](#)

Funding Opportunity Description: NOAA is soliciting proposals for projects of 2 to 5 years in duration that advance understanding, prediction, and management of the causes and ecological and economic impacts of hypoxia in representative coastal ecosystems. Funding is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2010 Federal appropriations. It is anticipated that final recommendations for funding under this announcement will be made by early Calendar Year 2010, and that projects funded under this announcement will have an August 1, 2010 start date.

Background information about the needs and priorities for research related to hypoxia in U.S. coastal waters is available in:

1. An Assessment of Coastal Hypoxia and Eutrophication in U.S. Waters. 2003. Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. (Report prepared pursuant to Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act): <http://www.nccos.noaa.gov/publications/hypoxia.pdf>;

2. The updated version of #1, A Scientific Assessment of Hypoxia in US Coastal Waters (2009), should be publicly available soon at either http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/extremeevents/hab/habhrca/Report_Plans.html or http://ocean.ceq.gov/about/sup_jsost_iwgs.html;
3. Effects of Nutrient Enrichment in the Nation's Estuaries: A Decade of Change (2007): <http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/publications/eutroudate/>.
4. Priority Topics for Nutrient Pollution in Coastal Waters: An Integrated National Research Program for the United States. 2003. Howarth et al. NOAA/NCCOS, in cooperation with the National Science Foundation, United States Department of Agriculture and United States Geological Survey: <http://www.nccos.noaa.gov/documents/nutrientpollution.pdf>;
5. Gulf of Mexico Alliance documents <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/>; and
6. CSCOR's CHRP web site describing past and current projects and program priorities: <http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/pollution/current/chrp.html>.

Proposals should be submitted through Grants.gov, <http://www.grants.gov>.

[Proposals under the HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS PROGRAM closes 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time October 14, 2009.](#) (**Please note:** Letters of Intent for the Harmful Algal Blooms Program, although not required, should be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Time, August 17, 2009).

Funding Opportunity Description: NOAA is soliciting proposals for the interagency Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms Program, the NOAA Monitoring and Event Response for Harmful Algal Blooms Program, and the NOAA Prevention, Control, and Mitigation of Harmful Algal Blooms Program.

[Proposals under SEA LEVEL RISE closes 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time October 14, 2009.](#)

Funding Opportunity Description: NOAA is soliciting research proposals for projects of 3 to 5 years in duration for development of modeling and mapping tools to better understand and predict the impacts of sea level rise on coastal ecosystems, including ecologically and economically valuable natural resources, to support proactive coastal management and mitigation decisions.

The area of interest includes the coastal ecosystems in the northern Gulf of Mexico, ranging from the eastern boundary of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve to the western extent of the Mississippi coast. Projects should be interdisciplinary, multiple investigator, and well integrated studies designed to develop capabilities for understanding, predicting, and mitigating the effects of longterm sea level rise. Funding is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2010 Federal appropriations. It is anticipated that final recommendations for funding under this announcement will be made in early calendar year 2010, and that projects funded under this announcement will have a July 2010, start date.

Electronic Access: Background information about the NCCOS/CSCOR efforts in the Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise Program can be found at <http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/climatechange/welcome.html>. Proposals should be submitted through Grants.gov, <http://www.grants.gov>.

The full Announcements of Federal Funding Opportunity and Federal Register Notices can be accessed through the Grants.Gov website at <http://www.grants.gov/search/basic.do>. To search on all the CSCOR announcements please use CFDA # 11.478.

NOAA Restoration Center Announces Three New Funding Opportunities

On July 16, the NOAA Restoration Center announced that it is accepting applications for several habitat restoration funding opportunities through its Community-based Restoration Program.

NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration National and Regional Partnerships - Through this program, NOAA will fund its newest round of three-year national and regional Partnerships, which will invest funding in the restoration of coastal and marine habitat nationwide from 2010-2012. Applications are due by **September 30, 2009**. For more information, contact [Melanie Gange](#) or click [here](#) to apply.

Community-based Marine Debris Removal Projects - Through this program, NOAA provides funding to projects that will benefit coastal and marine habitats through the removal of marine debris, particularly non-re-accumulating debris or debris which is no longer being introduced into the marine environment. Applications are due by **October 31, 2009**. For more information, contact [David Landsman](#) or click [here](#) to apply.

Open Rivers Initiative - Through this program, NOAA funds dam and river barrier removal projects that aim to repair vital riverine ecosystems, enhance populations of migratory fish, and benefit local communities. Applications are due by **November 16, 2009**. For more information, contact [Tisa Shostik](#) or click [here](#) to apply.

Projects should feature strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components, as well as social and economic benefits for the impacted communities. For more information, contact the Community-based Restoration Program's Program Manager, Robin Bruckner, at 301-713-0174 x208 or robin.bruckner@noaa.gov.

Gulf of Mexico NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (BWET) Program Funding Opportunity Announced

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-SE-2010-2001852
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.463, Habitat Conservation

Funding Opportunity Description: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southeast Region, is seeking proposals under the Gulf of Mexico B-WET Program. The B-WET program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. Funded projects provide meaningful watershed educational experiences for students, related professional development for teachers, and helps to support regional education and environmental priorities in the northern Gulf of Mexico. This program addresses NOAA's mission goal to "Protect, Restore, and Manage the Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources Through an Ecosystem Approach to Management."

Dates: Full proposals must be received and validated by Grants.gov on or before 5 p.m. ET on **November 13, 2009**. Please note: Validation or rejection of your application by Grants.gov may take up to 2 business days after submission. Please consider this process in developing your submission timeline. Applications received after the deadline will be rejected/returned to the sender without further consideration. Use of U.S. mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

Conferences and Workshops

17th National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop

September 14-17 New Orleans, Louisiana

The [Annual Nonpoint Source \(NPS\) Monitoring Workshop](#) is an important forum for sharing information and improving communication about controlling and monitoring NPS pollution issues and projects. The focus of the 17th National Workshop is on nutrients and what lessons we have learned that can be factored into State Nutrient Reduction Strategies. The workshop will bring together NPS monitoring and management personnel from state, federal, Tribal and municipal governments, private sector, academia, environmental groups and local watershed organizations. This year's workshop will provide examples of nutrient monitoring and management lessons learned from completed NPS projects, demonstrations of new technologies and monitoring approaches, and documentation of successful application of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Management Measures to achieve nutrient management goals. Information presented at this workshop will be useful in the development of State Nutrient Reduction Strategies.

CREST Program: Current Projects in Coastal Research

September 16, 2009

9am-12pm at the Audubon Room, Danna University Center, Loyola University, New Orleans, La.

All interested parties are welcome to attend this meeting of the coastal scientists and researchers currently undertaking projects under the CREST Program (Coastal Restoration & Enhancement Through Science & Technology.) Presentations include:

- P. Subudhi (LSU Ag. Center), Micropropagation and genetic characterization of sea oats to accelerate restoration efforts
- A. Nyman: (LSU Ag. Center/LSU/NMFS), Developing a tool to map coastal wetlands affected and unaffected by freshwater introductions
- G. Shafer (SELU), Habitat State Change and the Effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on Aboveground Turnover in the Manchac/Maurepas Wetlands Under Varying Restoration Scenarios
- R. Caffey (LSU Ag Center)/D. Petrolia (Mississippi State U.), Economic assessment of rapid land-building technologies for coastal restoration
- R. Gambrell/G.Zhang (LSU), A laboratory and field study of the application of biodegradable polymers to restoring coastal wetlands
- K. Yeager, C. Brunner (USM), Assessing tectonic and associated drivers of subsidence and consequent impacts on coastal marshlands: the Pearl River, Louisiana
- M. Bethel (UNO), Development of a Method for the Assessment and Prediction of Sustainability and Vulnerability of Ecosystem-Dependent Livelihood Bases of Coastal Communities through Integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Geospatial Technologies
- J. Campbell (USM), The role of root associated fungi in saltmarsh restoration success
- A. Kolker (Tulane), The Changing History and Impacts of Hurricanes along Louisiana's Coast and the Implications for Coastal Restoration and Revitalization

For more information, contact Doug Daigle at the CREST Office, 225-578-0069; jddaigle@lsu.edu or go to www.gulfcrest.org.

Alabama BirdFest

Oct. 15-18, 2009

Registration is now open for the 2009 John L. Borom Alabama Coastal BirdFest! If you would like more information about this year's BirdFest, please call 251-625-0814. [Click here for Registration](#)

Local Birders will recognize the names of two featured speakers for the 2009 Alabama Coastal BirdFest, said John Borom, president of Mobile Bay Audubon Society and BirdFest chairman. "Kathy Hicks and Bill Summerour are local residents, but we think they will present programs that will appeal to birders from all over the country who will be here for BirdFest this fall," Borom said. "For opening night, we will have a presentation by photographer Kathy Hicks. Kathy is also a very talented graphic designer, and she created our 2009 poster using three of her Great Blue Heron photos. I think it's going to be a very popular poster."

A Baldwin County resident who grew up on the Western Shore of Mobile Bay, Kathy calls herself an 'advanced amateur' photographer, but her work has won several awards and has been used in Forbes, Antique Road Show, Science Daily, and Outdoor Alabama. She is also an exclusive photographer for iStockPhoto.com. Her show Thursday night is A Gulf Coast Photo Journal, a selection of her best birding shots, set to music.

"On Friday night, we feature another birder and artist, Dr. Bill Summerour. Bill is as well known as a biologist as he is artist. His watercolor of a Purple Gallinule was featured on the 2005 BirdFest poster."

A graduate of Auburn University, Bill earned his Ph.D. in zoology at Mississippi State. He taught biology, zoology, botany, and ornithology at Jacksonville State University for more than 20 years and was a visiting professor of biology at Virginia Military Institute. He spent seven years as editor of Alabama Birdlife, the Journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society. Since retiring in 1991, he continues to photograph and paint birds and conduct research into Red Crossbills in the Talladega National Forest and Swainson's Warbler in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Bill's Friday night presentation, Birding the Alabama Gulf Coast will highlight some of the best birding spots in our area. More information about the 2009 Alabama Coastal BirdFest – including the schedule of guided tours – is available at <http://www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com/index.htm>.

Wetland and Transitional Habitats of the Louisiana Gulf Coast

Sponsored by: Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's Coastal Training Program (CTP), Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex, and the Weeks Bay Foundation

October 20-23, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Tuesday – Thursday)

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Friday)

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

61389 Highway 434

Lacombe, LA 70445

This is a 3.5 day field-intensive plant class taught by Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock, renowned botanist from Southern Illinois University. Dr. Mohlenbrock travels across the country studying wetland plants and teaching plant identification techniques to the staffs of various environmental agencies and organizations. Participants in this class will visit a number of field sites within the Big Branch Marsh Refuge and adjacent properties and learn to identify the key plant species of each habitat type. Target

audiences for this event include federal and state agency regulatory personnel, ecotourism operators, natural resource managers, mitigation bank managers, and wetland professionals and consultants.

The fee for this class is \$100. It includes class instruction, materials, and transportation to field sites. To register for this event, please contact Marian Hanisko at 228-475-7047 or Marian.Hanisko@dmr.ms.gov, or Amy Gohres at amy@weeksbay.org. Please note that only checks or Purchase Orders will be accepted, and they should be addressed to the Weeks Bay Foundation. The deadline for registration is Friday October 9, 2009 or as soon as the class is filled. The class is limited to 20 participants - EARLY REGISTRATION is recommended! If you have questions about this event, please contact Marian Hanisko at 228-475-7047 or Marian.Hanisko@dmr.ms.gov, or Amy Gohres at amy@weeksbay.org.

Announcing the 2009-2010 "From H-2-O" Water Quality Workshop for Teachers

When: October 23-25, 2009 (back-up dates January 22-24, 2010)

Where: Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium's W.J. Defelice Marine Center, Cocodrie LA

Who can apply: Louisiana middle school or high school teachers
Space Availability: 20

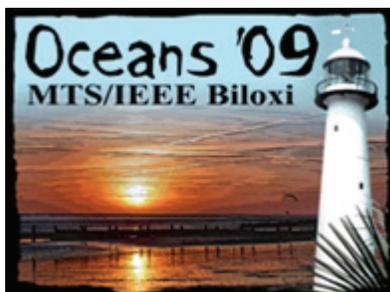
Hosted By: Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON)

Funded By: Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Have you ever wanted to teach your students science using meaningful hands-on scientific investigation, while at the same time teaching them environmental stewardship? Now you can. All you have to do is apply to be one of this year's From H-2-O workshop participants. From H-2-O is a training workshop for LUMCON's Bayouside Classroom program. Bayouside Classroom is a student-based water quality monitoring program designed to teach students about the environment while practicing stewardship. For more information about Bayouside Classroom visit: www.lumcon.edu/bayousideclassroom.

From H-2-O is a comprehensive workshop with great networking opportunities. Teachers work with educators, scientists, and other professionals to learn how to teach water sampling in their classrooms. Each workshop participant will receive a free water sampling kit with all the required equipment to collect and analyze water samples, free resources, and much, much more. Free meals and lodging are provided to all workshop participants during the workshop. For more information about the Bayouside Classroom program, the From H-2-O workshop, or about how to apply, contact Murt Conover at: mconover@lumcon.edu or (985) 851-2860.

Oceans 2009



Marine Technology for our Future: Global and Local Challenges

MTS/IEEE Biloxi, Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center

October 26-29, 2009

Attendee Registration: [Click Here](#)

Exhibitor Registration: [Click Here](#)

[Draft Schedule of Events](#)

The conference theme “Marine Technology for our Future: Global and Local Challenges” reflects the focus of the oceans community acting locally to help globally. For this year’s event, your Local OCEANS Committee has selected four local topics of global interest. Sessions on Operational Oceanography, Coastal Restoration, Ocean Observing Systems and Lessons Learned from Recent Hurricanes will join our traditional topic areas to highlight recent issues, concerns, and solutions that extend around the globe.

Navigating the Environment

Managing Risks and Sustaining Benefits Technical Seminar & Networking Reception

October 28, 2009

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Westin Canal Place & Plimsoll Club

New Orleans, Louisiana



REGISTER at www.pianc.us

PIANC USA and the International Environmental Commission (EnviCom) are organizing this one-day technical seminar. EnviCom’s mission relates to both broad and specific issues related to sustainability, environmental risks, and navigation. It also develops and provides environmental guidance for sustainable waterborne transport, ports and waterways. This seminar will also offer the chance to network with colleagues and visit with industry exhibitors. The evening reception will be held at the Plimsoll Club, with its exclusive location atop the World Trade Center and a spectacular panoramic view of the Crescent City and Mississippi River. Sponsor and Table-Top Exhibiting opportunities available; contact pianc@usace.army.mil or 703-428-9090.

First Southeastern Water Trails Forum



REGISTRATION OPEN for the First Southeastern Water Trails Forum!

The Southeast is home to some of the most beautiful rivers, lakes and streams in the country. These unique assets are important not only for the valuable habitat and water resources, but also for their economic and tourism potentials. [Join us for the first Southeastern Water Trails Forum, October 29-30, 2009 in Chattanooga, TN](#) at the Chattanooga Marriott to hear from regional and national experts, learn from fellow success stories and share ideas.

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



Laurie Rounds

Coastal Management Specialist

NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

Laurie.Rounds@noaa.gov

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