Get to Know NOAA's National Ocean Service
2004 Ocean and Coastal Program Managers' Meeting
Hotel Washington
Thursday, March 11
9:00 am -11:00 am in the Ballroom

Grab some coffee and a muffin and sit down with folks from some of NOS' program offices to learn about the work they do that is applicable and useful in managing coastal resources. The purpose of the roundtables is to provide managers an opportunity to have topic-based roundtable discussions with representatives from National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS), Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS), Office of Response & Restoration (OR&R), Office of Coast Survey (OCS), National Geodetic Survey (NGS), and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS).

PRELIMINARY ROUNDTABLE SCHEDULE

Each Roundtable will run four times, once every 30 minutes, from 9:00-11:00 am, unless noted otherwise.

Table 1: New Estuary Restoration Inventory
Office of Response and Restoration

NOAA's National Estuary Restoration Inventory, developed under the Estuary Restoration Act and released in February 2004, provides access to information on restoration projects from throughout the country. The inventory contains data on acres restored, restoration techniques, and monitoring parameters, tracking progress toward the million-acre goal of the Estuary Restoration Act and providing information for restoration managers and project planners. This roundtable will include a demonstration (via laptop) and discussion on how NOAA can help state agencies to include their projects in the national inventory.

Contact: Amy Zimmerling: 301-713-2989, extension 128 or amy.zimmerling@noaa.gov

Table 2: Applications of the National Water Level Program
Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services

CO-OPS operates and maintains the National Water Level Program (NWLP) whose backbone is a network of 175 long-term, continuously operating water level stations. This roundtable will focus on beneficial applications and services that water level and datum information can provide. For example, real-time water level information is not only essential for programs supporting safe navigation, such as the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®), but is also critical for storm surge monitoring for effective evacuation route decision-making efforts. Water level information is also required for successful wetlands restoration projects and for assessing long-term sea level trends.

Contact: Tom Landon: 301-713-2897, extension 191 or thomas.landon@noaa.gov

Table 3: New Database on Underwater Hazardous Environmental Threats
National Marine Sanctuary Program

Recent incidents have highlighted the need for coordinated, multi-hazard contingency planning to safeguard the marine, historical, and cultural resources within our national marine sanctuaries. In response to that need, the National Marine Sanctuary Program and NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration's Hazardous Materials Division have developed the Resources and UnderSea Threats (RUST) Database. The mission of the RUST database is to develop, maintain, and manage an active and comprehensive inventory of undersea threats and potential environmental hazards within United States waters. RUST can assist coastal managers by identifying sources of possible underwater pollution or other environmental hazards affecting our nation's coastal resources. RUST will be an additional tool for federal-state partners to use in ensuring the protection of our coastal resources for future generations while balancing competing national economic, cultural and environmental interests.

Contact: Michael Overfield: 301-713-3125, extension 236 or michael.overfield@noaa.gov

Table 4: System-Wide Resource Monitoring
National Marine Sanctuary Program

The National Marine Sanctuary Program is developing a system-wide approach to resource monitoring. One of the first substantial efforts, slated for FY04, will be to develop a west coast observation system for the sanctuaries in Washington and California. The technical assistance workshop will allow resource managers to discuss plans and actions to implement monitoring throughout the program as well as those for the west coast network. Potential cooperation among programs, as well as identification of other key partners, will also be discussed. It is hoped that collaboration opportunities will emerge, allowing partners to improve the scope and application of their own monitoring programs. Technical suggestions may also be made, enhancing future development activities.

Contact: Steve Gittings: 301-713-3125, extension 130 or steve.gittings@noaa.gov

Table 5: Estuarine & Coastal Modeling
Office of Coast Survey

NOAA's Coast Survey develops and applies hydrodynamic circulation models for the analysis, simulation and real-time forecasting of estuarine and coastal oceanographic phenomena (e.g. water levels, currents, temperature, salinity) to provide accurate information on these variables for U.S. estuarine and coastal marine areas. Hydrodynamic systems are used to provide products and services for the coastal marine community in support of safe and efficient navigation and for environmentally sound utilization, management, and protection of the coastal zone. The hydrodynamic model systems can also be coupled with atmospheric, hydrologic and ecological model systems to address these issues holistically.

Contact: Bruce Parker: 301-713-2801, extension 121 or bruce.parker@noaa.gov

Table 6: Hydrographic Surveys
Office of Coast Survey

Hydrographic surveys are conducted to determine the bottom configuration of various inshore/offshore areas in U.S. waters, especially as it pertains to safe navigation. This includes the detection, location, and identification of wrecks and obstructions and verification of shoreline features. A variety of platforms and technologies are used during hydrographic survey operations, such as shallow water multibeam, side scan sonar, and airborne bathymetric lidar. If roundtable participants have interest in a particular project area, arrangements could be made to have the manager visit a field unit during operations, create specific products or explore possible future arrangements to acquire additional data in their area of interest. Coast Survey is looking for ways to leverage their survey expertise and provide geographic data in formats accessible to the wider scientific community.

Contact: Mike Gibson: 301-713-2700, extension 122 or mike.gibson@noaa.gov

Table 7: Global Positioning Systems
National Geodetic Survey **9:00 and 9:30 am**

At this roundtable, National Geodetic Survey (NGS) will discuss tools and services they provide to use Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques for very accurate location determinations. NGS manages a network of more than 400 GPS Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) from which data can be downloaded via the Internet. These data can help GPS users to derive latitude, longitude, and elevation coordinates to the few-centimeter level. NGS provides a tool, the On-line Positioning User Service (OPUS), which allows users to simply submit their GPS data in the standard format to NGS via email, and within a few minutes, receive a position with accurate coordinates and connected to the NGS-managed National Spatial Reference System. OPUS processes that data with data from the CORS network and computes the position for the user. Another tool of particular interest to coastal managers is the Shallow Water Positioning System (SWaPS). SWaPS is comprised of a GPS receiver and a digital camcorder rigged to a flotation device. SWaPS provides a precise method of evaluating and recording changes to underwater features without relying on deploying divers. SWaPS can enhance remotely sensed imagery with centimeter-level local positioning and creates a digital data archive that can be readily incorporated into comprehensive geographic information systems. This innovative positioning system delivers an unprecedented ability to monitor changes to our coastal environment.

Contact: Rick Yorczyk: 301-713-3230, extension 142 or rick.yorczyk@noaa.gov

Table 8: Height Modernization & Wetlands Restoration
National Geodetic Survey **10:00 and 10:30 am**

Height Modernization is an NGS-led effort to establish accurate, reliable heights using GPS technology in conjunction with traditional leveling, gravity, and modern remote sensing information. Height Modernization can provide better access to accurate and consistent height data at the local level. Accurate heights are essential for coastal management activities such as subsidence monitoring, sea level rise estimation, flood plain mapping, urban planning, storm surge modeling, habitat restoration, emergency preparedness, and resource management. At this roundtable, NGS will discuss how this technology can be used in wetlands restoration and other coastal management efforts.

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Table 9: Early Warning System for Aquatic Invasive Species
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center have agreed to collaborate to make invasive species information more accessible. They are working to link their own invasive species information databases, and help link other public and private databases into a unified network. These efforts will result in a single web portal that will allow users to search all the databases and download the data free-of-charge. Using the network, managers will be able to detect alien species before they spread beyond the point

of initial introduction, and assess the risks posed by the new aquatic invader. Current focus is on developing a Pilot program for Hawaii. A comprehensive U.S. and Canadian aquatic species network should be operational within five years.

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Table 10: Coastal Habitat Restoration Monitoring
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

"*Science-Based Restoration Monitoring of Coastal Habitats*" provides technical assistance, outlines necessary steps, and provides useful tools for the development and implementation of sound scientific monitoring of coastal restoration efforts. In addition, this two-volume manual offers a means to determine if the restoration is on track, to gauge how well a restoration site is functioning, and to coordinate projects and efforts for consistent and successful restoration. It also helps users evaluate the ecological health of specific coastal habitats before and after a project is completed.

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Table 11: Information Communication
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

No one can keep current with all the journals, reports, presentations, and other information sources available that might contain information needed to manage a coastal resource. Come discuss how you would like to receive information from NCCOS and at what type or level of detail.

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