



The CSO Weekly Report

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Coastal States Organization

<http://www.coastalstates.org>

"The Voice of the Coastal States and Territories on Ocean, Coastal & Great Lakes Affairs"

On the Hill...

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL

This week, the House Natural Resources Committee reported out the *Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Regional Program and National Environmental Literacy Grant Program Act* (H.R. 3644) with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. The bill, introduced by Representative Lois Capps (D-CA), directs NOAA to establish education and watershed programs which advance environmental literacy, including preparedness and adaptability for the likely impacts of climate change in coastal watershed regions. For more information, visit: <http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d111:1:./temp/~bdV6xW:@@T/bss/111search.html>

At CSO...

CSO PARTICIPATES IN MACOORA ANNUAL MEETING

On November 17th, CSO's policy coordinator, Kate Zultner, and CSO's Virginia delegate, Laura McKay, participated on a state partnerships panel on the major coastal and environmental issues facing the Mid-Atlantic states at the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MACOORA) annual meeting in Portsmouth, VA. The theme of the meeting was *Understanding the Coastal Ocean: Partnerships for a Changing World*. Over 135 participants, from 70 different organizations and eleven different branches of NOAA, attended. For more information about the meeting and MACOORA: <http://www.macoora.org/annualmeeting.html>.

In the States...

NORTH CAROLINA SEA LEVEL RISE FORUM REGISTRATION OPEN

The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is hosting a Science Forum on Sea Level Rise in North Carolina on January 14-15. The forum will feature distinguished speakers from North Carolina, as well as invited speakers from other states. The forum will be the vehicle through which the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) will release a preliminary report on the current and projected rates of sea level rise in North Carolina. The report will project sea level rise ranges in 25-year intervals through 2100. The CRC, as well as other DENR agencies, can use these metrics as the foundation for policy development and adaptation planning. Anyone is welcome to register, including state and local officials, resource managers, emergency managers, planners, infrastructure providers (*e.g.*, transportation and utilities), conservationists, private sector, and other interested parties. Registration is now open and is limited to 250 people. There is no cost to register. To register, please send an email to

Tancred.Miller@ncdenr.gov with the following information: name, title and affiliation, mailing address, and telephone number.

At the Agencies...

ARCTIC REPORT CARD: UPDATE FOR 2009

The authors of the Report Card state that warming of the Arctic continues to be widespread, and in some cases, dramatic, and linkages between air, land, sea, and biology are evident. The topics covered include: atmosphere; sea ice; ocean; land; Greenland; and biology. Material presented in the Report Card is prepared by an international team of scientists and is peer-reviewed by topical experts. To read the Report Card: <http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/reportcard>.

Announcements...

IUCN REPORT DECLARES OCEAN CARBON CENTRAL TO CLIMATE CHALLENGE

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released a partnership report, *The Management of Natural Coastal Carbon Sinks*, that states ocean carbon is central to climate change. The report indicates that world leaders should recognize the immense potential of the ocean to reduce global warming by capturing carbon to avoid a serious climate crisis. The first in-depth study revealing the latest science of marine ecosystems, such as seagrass meadows, mangroves and salt marshes, shows that they have a much greater capacity to progressively trap carbon than land carbon sinks, such as forests. “The current loss of two-thirds of seagrass meadows and 50 percent of mangrove forests due to human activities, has severely threatened their carbon storage capacity and is comparable to that of the annual decline in the Amazon forests,” says Dan Laffoley, Marine Vice-Chair of IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas and lead author of the report, “urgent international action is needed to ensure that coastal marine ecosystems are fully recognized as critical carbon sinks and properly managed and protected.” The IUCN report, supported by Natural England, The Lighthouse Foundation and UNEP, and compiled by leading scientists in this field, provides the latest evidence of the ocean’s ability to store carbon and the role each of these marine ecosystems play in reducing the negative effects of climate change. It offers specific policy guidelines about how to include management of marine carbon sinks in international and national reduction strategies. “While there have been a lot of discussions about major carbon sinks on land such as forests, we have not heard much about the missing sinks of carbon in the oceans. The marine world not only regulates our climate, supplies essential goods and services, but also helps us tackle climate change,” says Carl Gustaf Lundin, Head of IUCN Global Marine Programme, “decision-makers at national and international level will have to look at policies and financing mechanisms for protection and management of our oceans, and this report is the best starting point.” To read the report: <http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/usa/?4216/Ocean-Carbon-Central-to-Climate-Challenge>.

REPORT ON ACIDIFICATION AND CORAL REEFS

A new report released by Coral Reef Initiatives for the Pacific explores the impacts of acidification on coral reefs. The report purports that the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide is leading to an increase in dissolved CO₂ in the oceans, leading to another increase in hydrogen ions and therefore a relative acidification, although the pH still remains slightly alkaline. In addition, this will also lead to fewer available carbonate ions. This concentration contributes to the transformation of calcium ions from a solid state (calcium carbonate) to a liquid state. Thus, the calcification rate will similarly decrease in all carbonate skeletal organisms, including corals. The risk of such a drop in calcium carbonate saturation is that dissolution factors, combined with mechanical destruction and bioerosion, will reverse coral reef construction and start fragmentation of the structure. It is generally thought that the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide, currently of 386 ppm, should not exceed 450-500 ppm to avoid this situation. However, according to IPCC scenarios, such values will be reached in less than a century. More research is required to determine the effects of increasing seawater acidification on more coral species, specifically through physiological studies on corals and their symbiotic zooxanthellae to establish the potential adaptability of some species. This report is available in English, French and Spanish. http://www.crisponline.net/Portals/1/PDF/C3B_Acidification.pdf. Website: <http://www.crisponline.net/>.

NMSF MSP PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

On November 17, the National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation, in conjunction with the National Marine Sanctuary Caucus, hosted a lunch briefing, *The Role of National Marine Sanctuaries in Marine Spatial Planning*. Speaker biographies and presentations are now available on the NMSF website at www.nmsfocean.org (see front page link to right) or directly by clicking <http://www.nmsfocean.org/article/2009/11/20/nmsf-hosts-hill-briefing-role-national-marine-sanctuaries-marine-spatial-planning>.

GLOBAL FISH ALLIANCE LAUNCH

On December 7, the Global FISH Alliance will host a launch reception at the AED Globe Theater in Washington, DC. The Global FISH Alliance promotes sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices through the application of a system-wide approach that balances economic, environmental, governmental, and social components essential to enhancing livelihoods and biodiversity. Supported by the U.S. government and partners, G-FISH brings together government, private sector, local populations, and civil society to work collaboratively with fisheries around the world. The reception will take place from 4:30-7 pm and will include a panel presentation, *Supporting Sustainable Fishing Practices Worldwide: A Partnership Approach*. To learn more about G-FISH and the reception: www.globalfishalliance.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN UNDERWATER RESEARCH FOR STUDENTS

Each year, the Our World Underwater Scholarship Society awards year-long scholarships designed to expose a qualified young person to a wide range of experiences in various marine-related fields. With continued generous funding from the Rolex Corporation, the awards are now known as the Rolex Scholarships. For 2010, three Rolex scholarships will be offered: one in Australasia, one in North America, and one in Europe. Each Rolex Scholarship provides a hands-on introduction to underwater and other aquatic-related endeavors for a young person considering a career in an underwater-related discipline. One scholar is selected from each of the three regions and each scholar spends approximately one year working side by side with current leaders in underwater fields. Each scholar travels primarily within his or her region, but may have opportunities throughout the underwater world. The range of experiences may include active participation in field studies, underwater research, scientific expeditions, laboratory assignments, equipment testing and design, photographic instruction, and other specialized assignments. For more information on scholarships and internships, and to download application materials, visit <http://www.owuscholarship.org/>

HABITAT PRIORITY PLANNER: GIS TRAINING FOR COASTAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS

On January 5 there will be a GIS training for coastal resource professionals in Mobile, Alabama on the Habitat Priority Planner. The tool is a geographic information system (GIS)-based tool used to make decisions about land use, conservation, and restoration. Different scenarios can be quickly explored—How would this restoration project impact the landscape? Where are wetlands that may contain species of concern? How many acres of forest are currently conserved? This course is a computer-based GIS training on how to apply the Habitat Priority Planner tool to land-use management, conservation, and restoration projects. To participate in the training you must have intermediate experience with ESRI ArcView 9.2 or 9.3. The training will take place at the US Army Corp of Engineers GIS Training Lab, 201 St. Michaels Street, Mobile, Alabama, from 8:30am-4:30pm. Registration deadline is January 1, 2010 and no refunds following registration deadline date. For information on training content and registration, contact Michael Shelton, Weeks Bay Reserve, at 251-928-9792 or michael.shelton@dcnr.alabama.gov or Marian Hanisko, Grand Bay Reserve, at 228-475-7047 or marian.hanisko@dmr.ms.gov.

Job Opportunities...

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL COORDINATOR COASTAL & MARINE SYSTEMS POSITION AT BATTELLE

Our National Security Global Business is currently seeking a Southeast Regional Coordinator Coastal & Marine Systems. This position is located in West Palm Beach, Florida. The successful candidate will have a proven track record of working with Federal, state and local environmental clients in the southeastern United States, and will have responsibility for establishing and maintaining client relationships. The individual should have a technical background and experience in planning and managing projects involving the assessment of estuarine, coastal, and/or marine ecosystems, with a particular emphasis on ecosystems in the southeastern United States. Technical areas of interest include ecosystem monitoring and assessment, field investigations, data analysis and interpretation, risk assessment, and technical report writing. The successful candidate will also have established relationships and demonstrated experience in business development in the Southeast region, including developing and implementing overall marketing strategies which result in achieving sales goals. The successful candidate will possess demonstrated leadership qualities and a successful track record in developing and completing initiatives. The individual also must have solid interpersonal skills and be perceived by clients and peers as a leader who provides value. For more information on the position and to apply: www.battelle.org/careers.

*** Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next Weekly Report will be published on December 4, 2009. Happy Thanksgiving! ***

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