

# CSO Weekly Report

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

*In the Administration...*

## **UPDATE: President Calls on Congress to Reinstate Authority to Reorganize Government**

Last week, President Obama asked Congress to reinstate the authority that past Presidents had to reorganize the Federal government. The President's first proposed use of that authority would be to merge several agencies that have overlapping trade and business development responsibilities – the trade sections of the Commerce Department, the Small Business Administration, United States Trade Representative, the Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Authority – into a single department tasked with boosting American business and promoting competitiveness. During a [press gaggle](#) with Press Secretary Jay Carney and OMB Deputy Director for Management Jeff Zients, Mr. Zients suggested that NOAA would be moved to the Department of Interior as part of this reorganization effort. NOAA, however, was not included in the President's announcement or the [Government Reorganization Factsheet](#). CSO will continue to monitor this effort. To learn more, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/01/13/making-it-easier-do-business-america>.

## **Draft National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy Now Available for Comment**

In partnership with state, tribal, and federal agency partners, the Obama Administration released the first draft national strategy to help decision makers and resource managers prepare for and help reduce the impacts of climate change on species, ecosystems, and the people and economies that depend on them. The [draft National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy](#), is available for public review and comment through March 5th. Comments can be submitted [online](#) and or by mail to the Office of the Science Advisor, Attn: National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive Suite 222, Arlington, VA 22203. In addition, there will be five public information sessions and two webinars to provide details and encourage dialogue on the strategy and its development. To register for these meetings and for more information on the draft strategy and public comment process, visit: [www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov](http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov).

*On the Hill...*

**House Deficit Reduction Bill Includes Coastal and Ocean Sustainability and Health Fund (COSH)**

Introduced by Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), the “[Deficit Reduction, Job Creation, and Energy Security Act](#)” (H.R. 3710) would establish in the Department of the Treasury a fund dedicated to enabling the long term economic viability of the nation’s coasts. The Coastal and Ocean Sustainability and Health (COSH) Fund would fund grants to address coastal and ocean disasters as well as programs and activities that restore, protect, maintain, manage, or help understand marine resources and their habitats, and ocean, and coastal resources. Monies will be deposited into the COSH fund from interest accrued on OCS royalties, rents, revenues, and fees that will remain, for the period of one year, in the COSH fund before the entirety of the principle is moved to the general Treasury. The bill authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to make grants for such purposes. The provisions establishing the COSH fund begin on page seven of the [bill](#).

*At the Agencies...*

**Digital Coast Webinar Series: Coastal County Snapshots (2/1/12) and Data Access (3/7/12)**

The upcoming webinars in the NOAA Coastal Services Center’s (CSC) Digital Coast webinar series will cover two tools found on the Digital Coast: Coastal County Snapshots and the Data Access Viewer. From 2:00-3:00pm EST on February 1st, Carrie Clingan (National Association of Counties), Lori Cary-Kothera (CSC) and Danielle Bamford (CSC) will introduce users to the Coastal County Snapshots product line, the data and information contained in these products and other related CSC products. The Coastal County Snapshots tool provides brief, county-level overviews of key resource management issues, including coastal flooding, ocean-related employment, and the benefits of wetlands in the coastal environment. From 2:00-3:00pm EST on March 7th, Erik Hund (CSC) will introduce users to a number of the data sets available through the Digital Coast Data page and provide a short demonstration of the Data Access Viewer. To learn more and register for these, as well as upcoming Digital Coast webinars, visit: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/webinar/index.html>.

*In the States...*

**Louisiana 2012 Coastal Master Plan Released**

On January 12th, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) released the draft version of [Louisiana’s 2012 Coastal Master Plan](#), which is available for [public comment](#) through February 25th. The draft Master Plan is based on a two year analysis involving some of the state’s best scientists as well as national and international specialists. The plan also reflects feedback provided through extensive outreach activities, which involved participation by industry, civic associations, and community groups. The draft Master Plan presents a list of 145 high performing projects that could deliver measurable benefits to Louisiana's

communities and coastal ecosystem over the coming decades. To learn more about Louisiana's Draft 2012 Coastal Master Plan, visit: [www.coastalmasterplan.la.gov](http://www.coastalmasterplan.la.gov).

*Announcements...*

**Save the Date: CHOW 2012**

[Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2012](#) (CHOW) will be held June 5th-8th in Washington, DC. This year's theme, "One Nation, Shaped by the Sea," will highlight how the ocean continues to shape our society. Visit [www.NMSFocean.org](http://www.NMSFocean.org) for more information as it becomes available.

*Vacancies...*

**American Samoa Government Hiring GIS Specialist**

The American Samoa Government, Department of Commerce (DOC), is looking for GIS Specialist to assist with the implementation of computer technologies, databases, software applications, and tools to produce an integrated information system. The GIS Specialist will report directly to the Manager of the American Samoa Coastal Management Program (ASCMP) and will utilize GIS for the purpose of data management and analysis, as well as organizing and enhancing existing systems. The GIS Specialist will lead the territory's GIS users' group to create policies directing territory-wide GIS activities (data sharing, standardized coordinate and datum scheme, and update responsibilities). As necessary, the GIS Specialist will assist technical staff in the effort to install, implement, and manage the on-going updates of ASCMP data and information systems. The GIS personnel will respond to requests of users, and troubleshoot problems relating to software and hardware errors, and will train other users as needed. The GIS personnel will also provide IT support to DOC including, specifications of computers, printers, plotters and network connectivity. A full position description, including how to apply, can be found online at: [www.asbar.org/employment/GIS%20Specialist.pdf](http://www.asbar.org/employment/GIS%20Specialist.pdf).

\*\*\* The next CSO Weekly Report will be published on January 27th, 2012.\*\*\*

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For questions or to submit stories for consideration in the next Weekly Report send an email to Diana Bowen at [dbowen@coastalstates.org](mailto:dbowen@coastalstates.org).