

CSO Weekly Report

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

In the Administration...

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting (2/23/12)

The 27th Meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force will be held on Thursday, February 23rd, at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington D.C. For more information visit: www.coralreef.gov. Additional information will be posted as it becomes available. To register go to: <http://nmsf.wufoo.com/forms/us-coral-reef-task-force-meeting-2012/>.

At the Agencies...

EPA Releases Climate Ready Estuaries Progress Report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the publication of the "Climate Ready Estuaries 2011 Progress Report," which describes program accomplishments as well as the new National Estuary Program projects launched during 2011. The progress report also uses examples from Climate Ready Estuaries projects started in 2008-2010 to show how the risk management paradigm can be used for climate change adaptation. Climate Ready Estuaries is an EPA program intended to help the National Estuary Programs and coastal managers plan for climate change. Climate Ready Estuaries works with National Estuary Programs to: (1) assess climate change vulnerabilities, (2) develop and implement adaptation strategies, and (3) engage and educate stakeholders. The "Climate Ready Estuaries 2011 Progress Report" is available at: <http://epa.gov/cre/>.

NOAA Designates Critical Leatherback Habitat Along West Coast

On January 23rd, NOAA announced the designation of additional critical habitat to provide protection for endangered leatherback sea turtles along the U.S. West Coast. NOAA is designating 41,914 square miles of marine habitat in the Pacific Ocean off the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington. The regulation, formally published in the [Federal Register](#) on January 26th, will become effective on February 25, 2012.

NOAA Heritage Week 2012

Join NOAA in Silver Spring, MD, February 3rd-11th to celebrate Heritage Week. Events include guest presentations, interactive exhibits, and hands-on activities for

all ages. Meet and talk with scientists, weather forecasters, hurricane hunter pilots, marine archaeologists, and others who work to understand the environment, protect life and property, and conserve and protect natural resources. To learn more, visit: <http://preserveamerica.noaa.gov/>.

In the News...

Healthy Coasts Key to Healthy Economies – UNEP (E&E News - 1/25/12)

Coastal nations should improve management of their marine zones to improve their economic outlook and limit poverty, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) says in a new report on ocean health. In "[Green Economy in a Blue World](#)," UNEP argues that cleaner seas and coasts translate into more tourism, healthy fisheries, and better transportation. [Full article available by subscription only at eenews.net.]

Announcements...

Great Lakes Summer Fellowship Program 2012

The Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research ([CILER](#)) at the [University of Michigan](#) has announced the 2012 Great Lakes Summer Student Fellowship Program. The 2012 program will be hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) [Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory](#) in Ann Arbor, MI, and NOAA's [Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#) in Alpena, MI. The summer fellowship program will provide students with a range of fields and an opportunity to conduct research in the Great Lakes Region under the mentorship of a scientist or professional. To learn more, visit: <http://ciler.snre.umich.edu/education/great-lakes-summer-student-fellowships>.

EBM Tools Demonstration: Oregon MarineMap

On February 7th at 2:00pm EST, the [Ecosystem-Based Management \(EBM\) Tools Network](#) will host a demonstration of the Oregon MarineMap by Andy Lanier of the Oregon Coastal Management Program and Charles Steinback of Ecotrust. The Oregon MarineMap is a web-based tool to support Oregon's marine spatial planning efforts, including the on-going public process to update the Oregon Territorial Sea Plan. Oregon MarineMap provides resource managers, scientists, stakeholders, and the public with the ability to visualize social, economic, and ecological attributes of coastal areas; spatially locate uses and activities; generate reports that assess the application of certain uses according to pre-defined guidelines, ecological conditions and socio-economic factors; and share information and analytical results with other users. Learn more at: www.oregon.marinemap.org. Register for the webinar at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/439287209>.

ICWP Washington Roundtable 2012

The Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) will be hosting the 2012 Washington Roundtable with the Western States Water Council (WSWC) at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, DC, on March 14, 2012. The Roundtable will

feature extended, informal discussions of water policy initiatives and opportunities with Administration leaders and key Congressional experts. The [Meeting Schedule](#) includes a series of ICWP Committee meetings related to infrastructure funding policy, flood inundation mapping and the federal "toolbox." The WSWC meetings on March 15th will be open to all who register. Learn more at: <http://www.icwp.org/cms/>.

Benthic Ecology Meeting Registration & Abstract Submission Now Open
[Registration](#) and [abstract submission](#) for the 41st Benthic Ecology Meeting (BEM) is now open. The 2012 BEM will be held March 21st-24th at the Waterside Marriott Hotel in Norfolk, VA. Abstracts for oral presentations will be accepted on the following topics: Chemical Ecology; Fisheries; Physical Processes; Behavior; Physiological and Molecular Ecology; Macroecology; Introduced Species; Life History Strategies; Recruitment/Larval Ecology; Restoration; Evolution; Conservation; Trophic Relationships; Community Ecology; Biodiversity; Ecosystem Functioning; Parasite-host Relationships; Anthropogenic Impacts; and Genetic Connectivity and Metapopulations. Early registration and the call for abstracts close on February 24th. Learn more at: <http://sci.odu.edu/bem/>.

Vacancies...

Communications Manager, Oceana

Oceana is looking for a communications professional to provide day-to-day support for its North American campaigns. The Communications Manager works to help Oceana's North America Office advance its campaign goals by increasing visibility and public awareness of ocean issues. The principal responsibility of this position is to assist Oceana's campaign directors to bring attention to relevant issues through media coverage. In addition, the position assists the campaign directors in all forms of communication and outreach to targeted audiences. The communications manager also establishes key relationships with the media on behalf of Oceana's campaigns. Candidates must thrive in fast-paced environments that require quick decision-making under pressure and strong multi-tasking skills. Learn more at: <http://na.oceana.org/en/about-us/employment-opportunities>.

*** The next CSO Weekly Report will be published on February 3th, 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.