

CSO Weekly Report

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

At CSO...

Save the Date: 19th Annual Coastal & Ocean Celebration

CSO is pleased to announce that the [19th Annual Coastal and Ocean Celebration](#) will be held from 6:00pm-8:00pm in Room 902 of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. The 2012 Celebration is particularly significant as it will serve as the kick-off event for the 40th anniversary celebration of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA). The anniversary of these landmark statutes provides an excellent opportunity to not only strengthen existing partnerships, but also build new ones around the successes and lessons learned from the past 40 years of the CZMA and CWA. Joining CSO in hosting the Celebration will be: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse; Congresswoman Donna Christensen; Association of National Estuary Programs; Consortium for Ocean Leadership; National Estuarine Research Reserve Association; Ocean Conservancy; and Sea Grant Association. Current sponsors and contributors include: American Association of Port Authorities; Association of State Floodplain Managers; National Association of Clean Water Agencies; National Federation of Regional Association for Coastal & Ocean Observing; The Coastal Society; and the Urban Coast Institute, Monmouth University. Please [RSVP](#) by February 22nd.

RI Delegate Grover Fugate Talks Coastal Hazards on “This Old House”

The long-running PBS series “*This Old House*” will tackle a project remodeling a coastal home in Barrington, Rhode Island. Since building in a hurricane zone and along the coast has risks, Kevin O’Conner, the show’s host, met with the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council and CSO Delegate Grover Fugate to discuss coastal hazards and what best practices the project, and all coastal property owners, should consider to make their homes more resilient to coastal storms, episodic erosion, and sea level rise. Watch the video online at: <http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/tv/video>.

On the Hill...

Congressional Briefing: Regional Ocean Partnership Updates

The Senate Commerce Committee and CSO will be co-hosting a Congressional Briefing with the Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs) on Tuesday, February 28th,

from 1:30pm-2:30pm in Room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. Come hear updates from the ROPs: Northeast Regional Ocean Council; Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean; Governors' South Atlantic Alliance; Caribbean Islands; Gulf of Mexico Alliance; Great Lakes Regional Collaboration; West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health; and Pacific Islands.

Bills to Prevent Write Off of Oil Cleanup Costs Introduced in House & Senate

On January 31st, Representative Alcee Hastings (D-FL) introduced a bill to prevent oil and gas companies from writing off the cost of oil cleanup. [H.R. 3852](#) – and its Senate companion [S. 983](#) introduced by Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) – would amend the Internal Revenue Code to “disallow a deduction for amounts paid or incurred by a responsible party relating to a discharge of oil.” The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that this bill could add an average of \$1.346 billion per year to the Treasury over the next five years. The House bill has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee, while the Senate bill is pending before the Finance Committee.

At the Agencies...

Wind Energy Moving Ahead in MD/VA/NJ/DE; Application Streamlined

On February 2nd, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Director Tommy P. Beaudreau [announced](#) that BOEM's *National Environmental Policy Act* assessment found that there would be no significant environmental and socioeconomic impacts from issuing wind energy leases in designated Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) areas off the mid-Atlantic Coast, allowing Interior to move forward with the process for wind energy lease sales off Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey and Delaware. BOEM also published Calls for Information and Nominations for Maryland and Virginia to solicit lease nominations from industry and request public comments regarding site conditions, resources and multiple uses of the Wind Energy Areas. Additionally, BOEM announced the finalization of a first-of-its-kind lease form that will help streamline the issuance of renewable energy leases on the OCS. The lease form will be effective 15 days following publication in the *Federal Register* at:

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/public-inspection/index.html>.

- The Notice of Availability of the environmental assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact are available through the *Federal Register* at: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/public-inspection/index.html>.
- For more information and links for the Maryland call, see: [http://www.boem.gov/BOEM-Newsroom/Press-Releases/2011/press02022012\(2\).aspx](http://www.boem.gov/BOEM-Newsroom/Press-Releases/2011/press02022012(2).aspx). For more information and links for the Virginia call, see: <http://www.boem.gov/BOEM-Newsroom/Press-Releases/2011/press02022012.aspx>.

- Additional information, including summaries of the public comments received and the Bureau's response to those comments is available at: <http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Program/Regulatory-Information/Index.aspx>.

NCCOS Launches Coastal Ocean Science Blog

NOAA's [National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science \(NCCOS\)](#) recently unveiled the [Coastal Ocean Science Blog](#), a new communications tool that gives a detailed look into the science taking place across the U.S. at NCCOS' [5 centers and 2 laboratories](#). The goal is to give readers a 360-perspective of NCCOS research, from design and implementation and results, to how science is being used by natural resource managers and partners across the states and territories. For more information, contact Becky Wynne at Rebecca.Wynne@noaa.gov or email the blog team at NOAAscienceblog@noaa.gov.

Secretary Salazar Announces Grants to Boost Recreational Boating

On January 25th, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar [announced](#) more than \$7.5 million in competitive grants to 10 states for 11 projects to support recreational boating through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [Boating Infrastructure Grant program](#). The Service will also release approximately \$2.5 million to 26 states, commonwealths, and territories willing to match a smaller, non-competitive grant program known as "BIG Tier 1" funding. Grantees use Boating Infrastructure Grant funds to construct, renovate, and maintain facilities with features for transient boats (those staying 10 days or less) that are 26 feet or more in length and used for recreation. Grantees may also use funds to produce and distribute information and educational materials about the program and recreational boating. To learn more about the program and the 11 projects receiving the competitive grants, visit: <http://www.doi.gov>.

In the Regions...

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Celebrates Change in Leadership

Jerome Zeringue has become the new management Chair of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, taking an active lead on behalf of Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal. Louisiana takes over following a long and active tenure by Dr. Bill Walker and Ms. Trudy Fisher with the State of Mississippi. The Chair's role is to act on behalf of the states' governors to oversee Alliance direction to address the six regional issues identified as priorities by all five Gulf States. For more information is available online at: www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org.

GLC Report: Permanent Physical Barriers to Stop Asian Carp Feasible

On January 31st, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative released a report identifying strategies for restoring the natural divide between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. The three separation alternatives include a down-river

single barrier between the confluence of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the Cal-Sag Channel and the Lockport Lock; a mid-system alternative of four barriers on Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) branches between Lockport and Lake Michigan; and a near-lake alternative of up to five barriers closest to the lakeshore. All three include measures to improve the CAWS's role in flood management, wastewater treatment and maritime transportation, as well as stopping the inter-basin movement of aquatic invasive species. The report and all supporting materials are available at: www.glc.org/caws.

Announcements...

Nine Research Projects Awarded by CA Sea Grant

California Sea Grant announced that it will award nearly \$1.4 million to support nine projects, all of which were reviewed by experts for their scientific merit and relevance to current marine issues. Most awards also include support for graduate students. The 2-to-3-year projects – which include modeling larval connectivity for a network of marine protected areas and investigating what changing storm intensities will mean for local sandy beaches – are slated to begin in February. For a full list of projects and their investigators, see CA Sea Grant's [news release](#).

Hawaii-Pacific GIS Conference: March 5-7, 2012

Registration is open for the 2012 Hawaii-Pacific GIS Conference to be held at the Hawai'i Convention Center in Honolulu, HI, March 5th-7th. Jointly sponsored by the Hawai'i Geographic Information Coordinating Council (HIGICC) and the Hawaii State GIS Program, the Conference will showcase government, community, research, and business leaders using GIS in areas including: disaster management and emergency response; natural resource management; invasive species management; and participatory and place-based GIS. To learn more about the Conference and to register, visit: <http://higicc.camp8.org/hpgw2012>.

SeaPlan Report: Cumulative Impacts of Human Activities on Marine Systems

[SeaPlan](#) and the [National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis \(NCEAS\)](#) have [released](#) the results of a cumulative impacts study of human activities on marine ecosystems in Massachusetts' state and federal waters. During the first phase of the project, researchers surveyed 57 regional ecosystem experts to gauge the relative vulnerability of marine ecosystems to current and emerging human stressors, such as fishing, nutrient input, and energy infrastructure. The resulting cumulative impacts maps and ecosystem vulnerability matrix yield insight into which ecosystems and areas are most vulnerable and which human uses, alone and in combination, are putting stress on marine ecosystems. For details, including the [project summary](#), [technical report](#), and [maps](#) visit: <http://www.seaplan.org/>.

NWQMC 8th National Monitoring Conference: April 10-May 4, 2012

The National Water Quality Monitoring Council's (NWQMC) will host its 8th National Monitoring Conference, "Water: One Resource – Shared Effort –

Common Future,” April 30th-May 4th in Portland, Oregon. The forum provides an opportunity for federal, state, local, tribal, volunteer, academic, private, and other water stakeholders to exchange information and technologies related to water monitoring, assessment, research, protection, restoration, and management. Conference themes will include: addressing contaminants and emerging threats to water quality and aquatic ecosystems; addressing climate and water availability issues; and communicating science and data to decision makers and the public. For more information, visit: <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2012/>.

Vacancies...

Environmental Researcher, Battelle Memorial Institute Battelle’s Environmental Assessment and Monitoring (EAM) Section is currently seeking a Researcher. The EAM Section includes field and environmental services support work for a variety of programs, including: environmental and engineering project; watershed management; water resource modeling; marine and freshwater ecosystem monitoring; and natural resource assessment. The successful candidate will be a team player with experience in providing technical support, database management and GIS support. Work will include technical support for the project, information/data collection efforts, solicitation of input and recommendations from the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Advancement Training Project Team. The position is located in Duxbury, MA. Learn more at: www.battelle.org/careers/.

CA Sea Grant Extension Advisor (Academic Coordinator) – Two Positions

The [California Sea Grant College Program](#) seeks experienced, resourceful, innovative professionals to appoint to two positions as a [California Sea Grant Extension Advisor](#). One position will be based in San Diego or Orange County, CA; and one position will be based in Eureka, CA. Advisors work individually and as part of a team of Advisors distributed throughout California. The role of an Extension Advisor is to develop solutions to high-priority coastal and marine issues, and disseminate information through diverse extension methods. Extension Advisors utilize research as an outreach and education tool. Advisors also organize symposia, workshops, and meetings to help local, regional, state, national, and international audiences identify resource problems and then engage community leaders, industry, academics, and agency staff in collaborative projects that lead to better-informed public decisions. Review of applications will begin March 1st and continue until the position is filled. To learn more about the position, required qualifications, and how to apply, see the full announcement [here](#).

*** The next CSO Weekly Report will be published on February 24th, 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.