

# COASTAL CONNECTIONS



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A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION FOCUSED ON TOOLS FOR COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGERS

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## News and Notes

### World's Two Largest Marine Protected Areas Agree to Partnership

Two marine protected areas have announced a historic alliance to enhance the management and protection of almost 300,000 square miles of marine habitat in the Pacific Ocean. The Republic of Kiribati recently signed an agreement with the U.S. that establishes a "sister site" relationship between the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, located in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, near the equator in the Republic of Kiribati. Combined, the two sites encompass 25 percent of all marine protected areas on Earth. For more information, visit [www.noaaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090923\\_mpa.html](http://www.noaaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090923_mpa.html).

*Continued on page 3*

*Coastal Connections* is a publication of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal Services Center, produced for the coastal resource management community. Each issue of this free bimonthly newsletter focuses on a tool, information resource, or methodology of interest to the nation's coastal resource managers.



## FOCUS

### The Multipurpose Marine Cadastre

*An on-line tool joins a collection of Center resources that help coastal professionals plan for new uses of marine areas.*

Not long ago, the ocean was seen as a vast and mysterious space, its terrain mostly unclaimable for human use. But times change. Purveyors of renewable wind and water technologies—encouraged by a cresting national demand for clean and secure sources of energy—are now jostling for marine space alongside offshore interests in shipping, cable siting, conventional hydropower, and oil and gas extraction. Not to be forgotten are coastal community stakeholders entering the fray to maintain their scenic and ecological resources.

All these events are taking place as the Obama administration's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force prepares to recommend a national framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning of the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

While enthusiasm about wind energy is driving interest in marine spatial planning, many other sectors need to be involved, too—the fishing industry, national security interests, officials leasing submerged lands, coastal community developers, and agencies protecting critical habitat, to mention just a few.

"This is an exciting time, but a challenging time, because U.S. coastal professionals need to figure out how to manage all this activity and interest in the best possible way," says Brian M. Smith, a marine spatial planning specialist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center.

In moving forward on marine spatial planning, the U.S. follows in the footsteps of trailblazers such as Australia and Belgium, but it must contend with a unique challenge—namely, an intricate governance structure that was not built for speed. According to a May 4, 2009, article in the *Washington Post*, "Finding Space for All in Our Crowded Seas," only about 20 percent of the U.S. exclusive economic zone (which extends 200 nautical miles out from the coast) has been mapped. What's more, the nation's complex marine governance structure involves 20 federal agencies and approximately 140 ocean-related laws.

"We saw the need to collaborate with the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service on an on-line tool, the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre," says Smith. "The cadastre helps coastal professionals locate the best information for planning and mapping of the marine space, and it enables them to share that information very quickly with stakeholders and other agencies," he adds.

*Continued on page 2*

## What Is a Multipurpose Marine Cadastre?

The traditional definition of “cadastre”—a public register that displays information on property ownership and rights—describes just one aspect of the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre (at [www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/mmc/support.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/mmc/support.html)). Users can locate not just cadastral data for the U.S. outer continental shelf and state waters but also relevant ecological, physical, cultural, and human-use data and information. Moreover, the Center continues to add resources to the cadastre, most recently data sets and tools relating to marine boundaries, geology, and infrastructure.

One resource manager who is sold on using the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre is David K. White, a fisheries engineer for the National Marine Fisheries Service’s Habitat Conservation Division in Santa Rosa, California. White has become heavily involved in marine spatial planning, because he reviews permit applications for hydrokinetic facilities that harvest alternative energy through tides, waves, free-flowing rivers, and ocean currents.

“Right now, it’s almost like a gold rush in California,” says White, noting that developers, venture capitalists, and large utilities are hurrying to file permit applications for hydrokinetic energy facilities. That’s because Governor Schwarzenegger’s Executive Order S-14-08 requires California’s retail sellers of electricity to reach a 33 percent renewable-energy portfolio by 2020. Alternative energy investors are also motivated by increased federal funding—the U.S. Department of Energy recently announced its plans to spend up to \$14.6 million to support hydrokinetic and conventional hydropower technologies and applications over the next few years.

White coordinates communication among the key players who need to review each application. “The location of permit applications can raise important concerns for different NOAA line offices and for community stakeholders. We want to make sure that the public is informed and that NOAA’s trust responsibilities are covered along with specific Fisheries responsibilities—for instance, protecting migratory routes and habitat for marine mammals, salmon, and other endangered species, along with the interests of commercial and recreational fishers,” adds White.

Before the cadastre, the process of mapping and sharing marine space information was frustratingly slow

and piecemeal. “Now, when I get a permit application, using the cadastre is the first thing I do,” says White. “I plug in the geographic coordinates and, within a few minutes, I’ve alerted six different offices and stakeholders that need to be involved. We create a map viewable by everybody that overlays the proposed hydrokinetic project with all sorts of information on the biology, state boundaries, safety hazards, jurisdictional boundaries, and other factors about that area.”

A recent example highlights the advantage of using the cadastre. “I received a permit application for a wave energy project off the California coast, and I immediately plugged in the geographic coordinates where the proposed project would be,” says White. “Then I put the information into a mapped geographic information system format. A lot of bells and whistles went off when some of us realized that the project was within the boundaries of two national marine sanctuaries and would also cross a shipping lane for San Francisco Bay. Before the cadastre, this process could take weeks—now it takes minutes,” says White. ❖

## Curious to Know More about Marine Spatial Planning in Your Region?

Five entities will be using marine spatial planning as an aid in crafting ocean-related decisions and managing marine areas:

- Gulf of Mexico Alliance  
[www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org](http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org)
- West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health  
[www.westcoastoceans.gov](http://www.westcoastoceans.gov)
- Northeast Regional Ocean Council  
<http://community.csc.noaa.gov/nroc/>
- Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance  
[www.southatlanticalliance.org](http://www.southatlanticalliance.org)
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean  
[www.midatlanticocean.org](http://www.midatlanticocean.org)

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## Ocean Task Force Notes

### Regional Concerns

The Obama administration's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force is expected to issue recommendations on ocean policy that include a framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning of the coasts, oceans, and Great Lakes. In preparation, the task force attended six regional meetings where officials and stakeholders made suggestions and aired concerns about issues related to marine spatial planning.

Last September, a marine spatial planning meeting held in Providence, Rhode Island, enabled the task force to hear from eastern seaboard agency partners involved in state ocean planning efforts. More than 350 people attended the Rhode Island public meeting, with 70 members of the public making formal statements.

"We did everything we could to give the task force members a rounded picture of the issues and challenges we face in marine spatial planning," says Betsy Nicholson, the NOAA Coastal Services Center's Northeast regional coordinator, who led federal partners in organizing the public meeting and associated field trips. A task force member stated that the Northeast region's "marine spatial planning story" was unique and very helpful in enabling the team to glean information for the upcoming report.

The task force's interim report on ocean policy is now on-line and outlines "a more balanced, productive, and sustainable approach" to the nation's ocean resources. To access the report, visit [www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/interimreport](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/interimreport). ❖

## Marine Spatial Planning Site Is On-Line

Check out [www.msp.noaa.gov](http://www.msp.noaa.gov) for marine spatial planning guidance, tools, real-world examples, and data access.

To learn more, or to suggest additional resources for the site, contact [Brian.M.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Brian.M.Smith@noaa.gov).

*Continued from page 1*

## News and Notes

### USAID Releases Adaptation Planning Guidebook

*Adapting to Coastal Climate Change: A Guidebook for Development Planners*, by the U.S. Agency for International Development, proposes ways to assess climate change vulnerability and incorporate adaptation options into development plans at local and national levels. The guidebook is available at [www.crc.uri.edu/download/CoastalAdaptationGuide.pdf](http://www.crc.uri.edu/download/CoastalAdaptationGuide.pdf).

### Annual Ocean Sciences Meeting Will Address Observation and Prediction Tools

The 2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting will take place on February 22 to 26 in Portland, Oregon. Scheduled events and presenters will focus on the ways in which observations, models, and lab experiments can enhance the predictive ability of ocean science, as well as outreach and marine policy efforts. To learn more, visit [www.agu.org/meetings/os10/](http://www.agu.org/meetings/os10/).

### Sea Grant Documentary Examines Maine's Coastal Climate Resilience

"Building a Resilient Coast: Maine Confronts Climate Change" is a documentary video produced by Oregon Sea Grant with the cooperation of the Maine Coastal Program that addresses the concerns and interests of Maine coastal residents. The ultimate goal of the project is to move behavior toward decisive action that results in more resilient coastal communities. To view the documentary on-line or order a copy, visit [www.seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/coastal-community-resilience](http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/coastal-community-resilience).

### Report Validates Critical Importance of Ocean and Coastal Economies

Coastal states are tremendously important to the U.S. economy—in 2007 alone, the 30 coastal and Great Lakes states contributed \$11.4 trillion to the national gross domestic

*Continued on page 4*

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## News and Notes *Continued from page 3*

product. A new report by the National Ocean Economics Program, *State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies – 2009*, presents time-series data compiled over the past 10 years that track economic activities, demographics, natural resource production, nonmarket values, and federal expenditures in the U.S. coastal zone on land and water. The report can be downloaded at [www.oceaneconomics.org/NationalReport/](http://www.oceaneconomics.org/NationalReport/).

### ACCOLADES

#### Handbook for Sustainable Development Wins Recognition

The publication *Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development* was honored as 2009 Project of the Year by the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association. The report cites ordinances and regulations that municipal officials can use to apply innovative land use techniques. Published by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, the report was a collaborative effort among the state's Association of Regional Planning Commissions, Office of Energy and Planning, and Local Government Center. It is available for download at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp/>.

#### Oyster Restoration Project Honored

The Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Project received a Coastal America Partnership Award, the only environmental award of its kind given by the White House. Since 2005, the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Task Force has strategically placed more than 2.1 million bushels of clam and oyster shells onto historical reefs in Delaware Bay, thanks to \$5 million provided by Congress and administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. More information is at [www.ecoDelaware.com](http://www.ecoDelaware.com).

### TRANSITIONS

Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve has hired **Megan Murphy** as a coastal training program coordinator. Murphy, a candidate for an M.S. in biological oceanography from the University of Alaska, has worked closely with the reserve as a graduate research fellow...

**Janine E. Powell** is the new director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Wetlands Research Center. She has many years of research experience with the USGS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Department of the Interior. She replaces **Gregory J. Smith**, who is now director of the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.