

January

NewsWave

2010



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Credit: BLM

Sunset at Pilot Rock, Trinidad, CA.

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BLM'S CALIFORNIA COASTAL MONUMENT CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY



The [California Coastal National Monument](#) (CCNM) turns 10 years old in 2010, and BLM, in collaboration with its partners, is commemorating the anniversary with a year-long, state-wide celebration.

Events are being planned at [CCNM Gateway Communities](#) up and down the California coast, and everyone is invited to come and join the celebration. The [first event](#) on January 10 at Point Arena included natural resource, historic downtown tours, and other local events. BLM photographer Bob Wick held an exhibit opening at Point Arena Lighthouse where admission was free for the day. The historic Arena Theater in downtown Point Arena showed Huell Howser's film "California Golden Parks" and Craig Tooley's slide show "The Rocky Shore Picture Show". Information about other upcoming events will be posted on the [Monument webpage](#) as dates and details become available.

Protected as part of BLM's [National Landscape Conservation System](#) (NLCS),

the CCNM is among the most viewed but least recognized of any of the Nation's national monuments. Located off the 1,100 miles of California coastline, it comprises more than 20,000 small islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles between Mexico and Oregon. The entire Monument is offshore.

The CCNM was established via Presidential Proclamation on January 12, 2000 to elevate the protection of "all unappropriated or unreserved lands and interest in lands owned or controlled by the United States in the form of islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles above mean high tide within 12 nautical miles of the shoreline of the State of California."

The CCNM Gateway Communities were identified in the monument's [Resource Management Plan](#) as ideal locations, based on their proximity to where the Monument is most often viewed, for providing visitor information and services. Gateways help establish and foster community relationships and support shoreline stewardship through consortiums of the local resource managers and advocates.

USGS AND FWS SIGN STRATEGIC HABITAT CONSERVATION MOU

In the face of global climate change and other 21st-century resource threats, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are taking steps to strengthen and expand their science-management relationship to conserve fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats.

In an agreement finalized Jan. 11, 2010 the Service and USGS outlined their joint commitment to an adaptive resource management framework for conservation at “landscape” scales—the entire range of a priority species or suite of species. Known as [“strategic habitat conservation”](#) or SHC, it is a way of doing business that requires the agencies and

partners to set biological goals for priority species populations, inform and make strategic resource management decisions and constantly reassess and improve conservation actions—all critical steps in dealing with large-scale conservation challenges and the uncertainty of accelerated climate change.

The agreement calls for the Service and USGS to collaborate closely, working as long-term partners to encourage common goals, a shared sense of purpose, and a defined operational framework. FWS Director Sam Hamilton and USGS Director Dr. Marcia McNutt signed the agreement.

[View the full agreement](#)



Credit: USGS

Ocean Quote of the Month

“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.”

Ryunosuke Satoro

INTEGRATED OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM HEADS TO ANTARCTICA

The [Integrated Ocean Drilling Program](#) (IODP) Expedition 318 – Wilkes Land Glacial History began on January 4, 2010 in Wellington, New Zealand. While in Wellington, the [IODP U.S. Implementing Organization](#) (USIO) and the Australian-New Zealand IODP Consortium (ANZIC) coordinated a press conference and ship tours for approximately 150 visitors including local students, scientists and dignitaries. An evening science lecture was open to the public and featured scientists from the recently-completed Canterbury Basin Expedition and the Wilkes Land Expedition.

Expedition 318 is currently drilling off the coast of Antarctica where the research team plans to drill four sites to investigate the history of Antarctic glaciation and its intimate relationship with global climatic and

oceanographic change. To read the daily and weekly reports from the expedition, visit: <http://iodp.tamu.edu/scienceops/sitesumm.html>.

To see weekly photos from the expedition, visit:
<http://iodp.tamu.edu/scienceops/gallery/exp318/>.

The IODP is an international research program that explores the history and structure of the earth as recorded in seafloor sediments and rocks. Within the structure of the IODP, the United States is responsible for operating the riserless drilling vessel JOIDES Resolution, Japan the riser drilling vessel Chikyu, and the European Union mission-specific platforms capable of drilling in environments unsuitable for either the riserless or riser vessels.

The IODP is accepting applications



The IODP's drilling ship JOIDES Resolution (JR). Source: www.oceanleadership.org

for scientific participants on the next expedition of the Nankai Trough Seismogenic Zone Experiment (NanTroSEIZE), which is scheduled to begin in June 2010. U.S.-affiliated scientists interested in participating in this expedition should apply to sail through the U.S. Science Support Program (USSSP) by February 12, 2010.

For NanTroSEIZE application instructions, please visit <http://www.oceanleadership.org/usssp/sail>.

SEC. SALAZAR ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$19 MILLION IN GRANTS TO PROTECT COASTAL WETLANDS ACROSS THE NATION

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar [announced](#) the award of \$19.2 million to support 25 conservation projects benefiting fish and wildlife on more than 6,100 acres of coastal habitat in 11 states through the 2010 [National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program](#).

The federal grants will be matched by nearly \$26 million in partner contributions from state and local governments, private landowners and conservation groups.

The grants will be used to acquire, restore or enhance coastal wetlands and adjacent uplands to provide long-term conservation benefits to fish, wildlife and their habitat. States receiving funds include California, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

"There are few actions we can take that are more important to the health of our environment, our wildlife and ultimately our coastal communities and their economies than conserving and restoring these vital wetlands," Salazar said. "The grants I am announcing today will enable us to continue to work in partnership with states, conservation organizations and other partners to acquire, protect and restore these vital areas and the fish and wildlife that depend on them."

The grants program is administered by the FWS and funded under provisions of the 1990 [Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act](#). Funding is provided by Sport Fish Restoration Act revenue – money generated from an excise tax on fishing equipment and motorboat and small engine fuels.

The Service has awarded nearly \$240



Salt panne habitat on the Madsen-Ridge Conservation Easement in Essex, Massachusetts. Credit: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

million to coastal states and territories since the program began in 1992. When the 2010 projects are complete, over 260,000 acres of habitat will have been protected, restored or enhanced.

A complete list of projects funded by the 2010 grant program can be found online at: <http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants/index.html>.

MMS APPROVES \$1.2 MILLION GRANT FOR FRINGE MARSH REPAIR

From MMS News Room —

The MMS has approved a grant for \$1,237,608 to the Plaquemines Parish Government in Louisiana through the [Coastal Impact Assistance Program](#) (CIAP). The money will be used for the first phase of a planned wetland repair and restoration project along Fringe Marsh, in the vicinity of the Plaquemines Levee in Plaquemines Parish, located approximately 50 miles southeast of New Orleans.

Grant funding for the first phase will include planning, engineering and design, and permitting for the project. The project's goal is to identify eight sites and borrow areas for the eventual restoration of approximately 300 acres of wetland area along the

Fringe Marsh, a tidal shoreline stabilization and buffer system at the base of the Plaquemines Levee on the seaward side.

"MMS is committed to assisting Louisiana in its vital coastal restoration efforts through the CIAP program," said MMS Director Liz Birnbaum. "We are proud to partner with Plaquemines Parish in supporting important multi-phase conservation initiatives like the Fringe Marsh Repair Planning project."

The CIAP was created by the [Energy Policy Act](#) of 2005. Through the program, MMS will provide \$250 million in grants annually, from 2007-2010, to six eligible Outer Continental



Photo: MMS

Shelf oil and gas producing states – Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, California, Mississippi, and Texas.

View the full press release at:
<http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2010/press0107.htm>

USGS SCIENTISTS RESEARCH DEEP-CORAL ECOSYSTEMS

USGS Scientists have been exploring deep-sea coral ecosystems as part of the [DISCOVRE](#) program (Diversity, Systematics, and Connectivity of Vulnerable Reef Ecosystems). The purpose of this interdisciplinary research program is to discover and document the existence of unique benthic communities in deep areas off



Two animals, a galatheid crab and the blackbelly rosefish (*Helicolenus dactylopterus*), nestle themselves within the deep coral, *Lophelia pertusa*.

Credit: USGS

the U.S. continental shelf in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Atlantic Coast.

Shallow water communities have been well studied because of their accessibility. Although they exhibit similar species and habitat biodiversity, only a small percentage of deep water coral communities have even been discovered being accessible only by technologically advanced methods such as manned submersibles, remote operated vehicles (ROV) and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV).

The DISOCVRE program has resulted in conservation initiatives such as the [South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's amendment](#) to protect more than 23,000 mi² of deep-coral habitats, ranging in depth from 370 to 800 m, off the coasts of the Carolinas,



This *parapandulus* shrimp spews a luminescent mucous to deter predators. Credit: Sönke Johnsen, Duke University.

Georgia, and eastern Florida.

To learn more about some of the recent activities of the DISOCVRE program check out this month's [SoundWaves article](#). The DISOCVRE expeditions are opening up a new world of organisms and ecosystems to scientists as researchers descend into uncharted territory hundreds of meters below the sea surface.

NEW "WATCH LIST" HELPS CITIZENS REPORT INVASIVE MARINE FISH

For the first time, a field guide for non-native marine fishes can be used to help prevent the establishment of invasive species that could pose risks to Florida's coastal ecosystems. USGS scientists, in partnership with NOAA and the Reef Environmental and Education Foundation (REEF) recently published the illustrated "watch list". The guide is part of a larger effort to protect US coastal waters from the threats posed by invasive marine fishes.

"Non-native fishes can have cascading effects that ultimately degrade the productivity and diversity of coral ecosystems," said Dr. Pam Schofield, a USGS biologist and lead author of the field guide.

Many non-native fish spotted in coastal waters are thought to be

aquarium fish that were released or escaped captivity. There may be a small window of opportunity to remove these invasive fish immediately, before they begin reproducing.

"Once they are established – that is, once their populations are self-sustaining – there's no known method for eradicating them," added Dr. Schofield.

"We published this guide as a tool for preventing non-native fishes from becoming established," said Dr. Schofield. "We're tracking sightings of all the non-native fishes listed in this field guide. We hope that divers, fishermen, and others will use the guide to report non-natives right away and help prevent what happened with the lionfish."



Divers carefully capture an invasive red lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) found near the coast of North Carolina. Credit: Karen Doody/USGS

The Field Guide to Nonindigenous Marine Fishes of Florida can be found online at http://fl.biology.usgs.gov/Marine_Fish_ID/index.html.

Suspected non-native fish can be reported to the [USGS-NAS database](#). If you want to help by volunteering your time to survey reefs, contact REEF (www.reef.org).

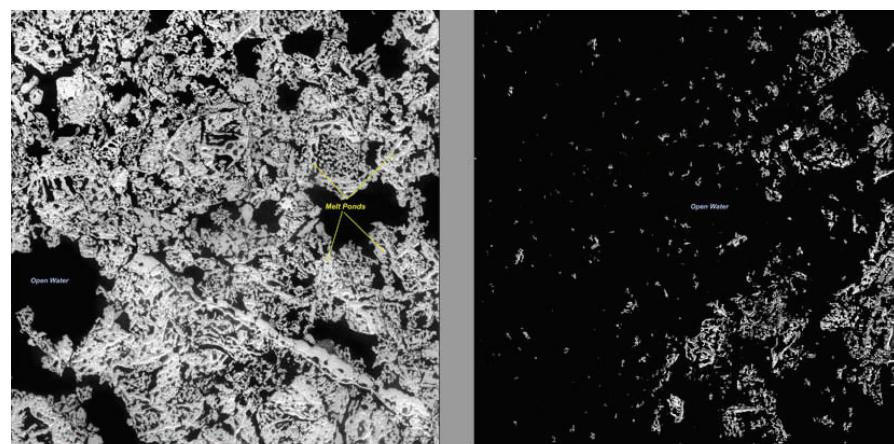
Full Article at: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2367>

SATELLITE IMAGES SHOW EXTENT OF ARCTIC SEA ICE MELT

The Arctic Ocean's depths have remained mostly undisturbed for millennia due to the persistent sea ice that muffles surface waves. However, [recent studies](#) have suggested that Arctic waters are now becoming increasingly disturbed as melting sea ice is opening up wide expanses of water around the northern continental shelves of north America and Asia.

[Satellite images recently released](#)

by USGS show evidence of this rapid loss of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean between 2001 and 2007. Increased surface wave action is resuspending the fine Arctic sea floor sediments and bringing deep waters to the surface. When these nutrient rich waters rich the photic zone, where sunlight can penetrate, they will feed summer



phytoplankton blooms and form a vast new foundation for the Arctic marine food web. Scientists are concerned that a more turbulent Arctic Ocean may accelerate the melting of Arctic sea ice.

Some satellite images were acquired through a team effort

from the U.S.'s top spies and climate experts. *The New York Times* reported that spy satellites and some of the world's most cutting-edge intelligence-gathering equipment are used to study the effects of climate change through CIA data-sharing programs.

SEC. SALAZAR INITIATES FINAL REVIEW OF CAPE WIND PROPOSAL

On January 4, Secretary Salazar issued a [statement](#) concerning the Cape Energy Wind Project in regard to the possibility that Nantucket Sound is eligible for listing in the NPS's [National Register of Historic Places](#). The finding of eligibility ensures that significant archeological, historic and cultural values are considered in the review of the permit for the proposed Cape Wind project by the MMS.

"America's vast offshore wind resources offer exciting potential for our clean energy economy and for our nation's efforts to reduce our dependence on foreign oil," said Secretary Salazar. "But as we begin to develop these resources, we must ensure that we are doing so in the right way and in the right places."

As part of Secretary Salazar's

commitment to issue a decision on the application for the [Cape Wind Energy Project](#), the MMS is accepting public comments on the [Revised Finding document](#) which was made available for public review and comment in the Federal Register on January 25 and closes on February 12.

The proposed Cape Wind project would place 130 turbines over 25 square miles in Nantucket Sound off the coast of Massachusetts, and could supply up to 75 percent of the electricity for Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Island.

The comments on the Revised Finding document will be reviewed and considered by the MMS as part of the ongoing [National Historic Preservation Act Section 106](#) consultation process which requires



Artist conception of the Cape Wind project. Credit: AP

Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#) a reasonable opportunity to comment.

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DOI Ocean and Coastal Button Contest

Answer the question below to receive a prize. Submit your answer to DOINewswave@ios.doi.gov and be sure to include the mailing address where you'd like your prize sent.



OCEAN QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Why is the ocean salty?

Answer to last month's question: It's a Hawksbill Sea Turtle. The overlapping scutes on the shell (or carapace) are the key identifying feature.



Please send your articles, questions, and comments to: DOINewswave@ios.doi.gov.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting: Portland, OR. Feb. 22-26, 2010. Stewardship of marine resources in the 21st Century demands the development of predictive tools based on models and field observations. The challenge of developing these tools forms the theme of the 2010 Ocean Sciences meeting. (<http://www.agu.org/meetings/os10/>)

23rd Meeting of the US Coral Reef Task Force: Washington DC, Feb. 22-26. The Steering Committee Meeting will be held at the Department of Commerce on February 23 and the Business Meeting will be held February 24 at the Department of Interior Auditorium. Visit the CRTF website for details: www.coralreef.gov.

2010 DOI Conference on the Environment: Portland, OR, April 26-30, 2010. Expected topics to be covered include: energy, transportation, environmental management systems, greenhouse gases and climate change, sustainable practices, stewardship, green procurement, solid waste management, NEPA, environmental liabilities, emergency response, environmental compliance. Conference website: <http://www.doi.gov/greening/conference/index.html>.

NOPP Seeks Research Proposals for Ocean Renewable Energy and Stewardship: The [National Oceanographic Partnership Program](#) (NOPP) is accepting research proposal submission for the topic, Developing Environmental Protocols and Monitoring to Support Ocean Renewable Energy and Stewardship. The deadline to apply is 3:00 p.m. EST on Monday, February 22, 2010. More information can be found through the Federal Business Opportunities web site, www.fedbizopps.gov under solicitation number M10PS00152.



The updated DOI Ocean and Coastal Activities calendar can be found on the new SharePoint site. Contact DOINewswave@ios.doi.gov to gain access (sorry only DOI employees).



Visit the Department of the Interior Ocean and Coastal Website at:

<http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/ocean.html>