



Department of Interior's [Oceans and Coastal](#) Newsletter
From Continental Divide to Continental Shelf and Beyond

Dear Members of DOI's Ocean and Coastal Community:

With the goal of enhancing cooperation between DOI bureaus, NewsWave is a forum to share news, information, and upcoming events related to ocean and coastal issues. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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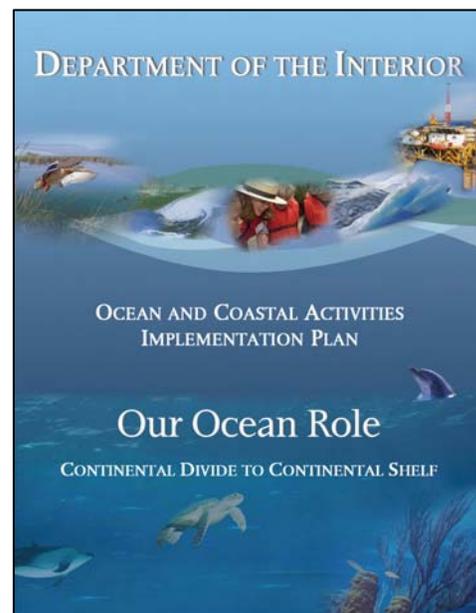
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This Month's Stories in Detail

DOI Ocean and Coastal Activities Implementation Plan is Released

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has a special trust to conserve and protect America's resources for today and for future generations to come. To fulfill this mandate, DOI is working collaboratively among its bureaus in a concerted effort to develop policies and coordinate intra-bureau efforts. Through two Ocean and Coastal Retreats in 2006 and 2008, DOI and bureau executives clarified DOI's ocean and coastal responsibilities and developed a framework for addressing our collective priorities. As a next step, this Implementation Plan describes goals, objectives, and work items that will guide DOI's efforts in moving ocean and coastal issues forward. This document is the product of the dedicated and committed efforts of those who participated in the DOI Ocean and Coastal Retreats. The 2006 Retreat focused on vision, mission, and guiding principles. The 2008 Retreat focused on formulating goals, objectives, and work items. These work plan actions will be further implemented by bureau and field-level offices for purposes of involvement and on-the-ground solutions.

Contact Terry Holman for a copy terry_holman@ios.doi.gov.



Key West National Wildlife Refuge Celebrates 100th Anniversary

2008 marks the 100th anniversary of Key West National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), the first refuge in the Florida Keys and one of the earliest in the United States. The refuge was established by President Theodore Roosevelt as a preserve to protect migratory birds from plume hunters. Starting in the late 1800s, millions of egrets, herons, ibises and other birds were killed every year simply for their head feathers called "aigrettes", which were used in the fashionable hats of the time. Despite the outlawing of plume hunting in Florida in 1891, poaching continued for years and many species of wading birds were hunted to the brink of extinction. Key West NWR was a critical component in the protection and eventual recovery of many of these important species. The refuge, which includes 2,019 acres of land and 206,289 acres of marine waters, extends from just west of the city of Key West, FL to the Marquesas Keys over 20 miles to the west. The refuge protects a diverse array of natural habitats including salt marsh, mangrove islands, coastal berm hammocks, salt ponds, seagrass flats, and coral reefs. The refuge is home to more than 250 species of birds including great white herons, brown pelicans, roseate terns, piping plovers, osprey, bald eagles, magnificent frigatebirds, peregrine falcons, and white-crowned pigeons. The protected islands of Key West are among the last undeveloped areas of the Florida Keys, the sandy beaches of which are important nesting habitat for four species of threatened and endangered sea turtles. To learn more about Key West NWR or to plan a visit go to <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/KeyWest/>.

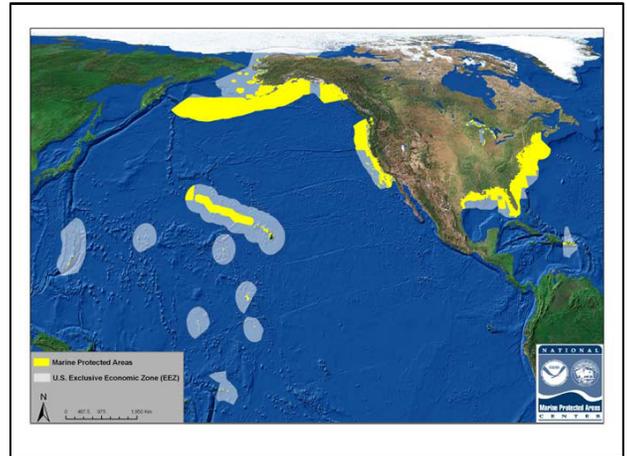


Aerial view of Key West NWR from Boca Grande Key looking east toward the city of Key West, FL.

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Interior and Commerce Departments Announce Launch of National System of Marine Protected Areas

The U.S. Departments of Interior and Commerce today jointly announced the availability of the final Framework for the National System of [Marine Protected Areas](#) (MPAs) of the United States, completing a cooperative, multi-year effort to provide a comprehensive approach to the protection of the nation's natural and cultural marine treasures. The National System of Marine Protected Areas is the first formal mechanism for coordinating MPAs across all levels of government. The agencies also announced the nomination process for federal, state, territorial, tribal and local sites to join the National System of Marine Protected Areas. MPAs are defined areas where natural or cultural resources are given greater protection than the surrounding waters. In the U.S., these areas may span a range of habitats including the open ocean, coastal areas, inter-tidal zones, estuaries, and the Great Lakes. To read the full press release go to: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2008/20081119_mpa.html.



The Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC) is seeking 14 new members for a four-year term from 2010-14. The Committee advises the Departments of Commerce and the Interior on the development and implementation of a national system of marine protected areas. Nominations are now sought by January 31, 2009 for natural and social scientists; state and territorial resource managers; and representatives of ocean industry, commercial and recreational fishing, environmental organizations and others. The MPA FAC meets twice yearly at coastal locations around the nation. For information on how to apply, email Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov or call (301) 563-1136 or visit the website at <http://www.mpa.gov/mpafac/fac.html>.

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The National System of MPAs currently includes 40 National Parks, Seashores, and Monuments, 107 National Wildlife Refuges, and 17 areas managed by MMS. NPS and FWS have both played an integral role in the planning and development of the System. To learn about the National System of MPAs visit www.mpa.gov.

Some National MPA facts:

- The U.S. currently has nearly 1,700 MPAs
- About 1/3 of all U.S. waters are in some form of MPA
- Nearly all U.S. MPAs are multiple use
- “No take” MPAs occupy only about 1% of all U.S. waters
- Less than 3% of the area in MPAs in the U.S. is “no take”
- U.S. MPAs are designated and managed by over 100 federal, state, territorial and local laws and regulations
- State and territorial governments manage more than 65% of the nation's MPAs
- Approximately 85% of U.S. MPA area is under federal jurisdiction

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News from the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)

NROC hosted the Northeast Coastal Hazards Workshop in New London, Connecticut on November 19 and 20, 2008. Sixty workshop participants from state and federal government, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and industry reacted to presentations about impacts of hurricanes on New England coasts during the 20th century, forecasts for sea level rise and associated increased inland reach of storm waves, and pilot efforts to identify areas of inundation using new tools and models. During discussion sessions, the participants identified five major areas of need for the Northeast:

(1) better communication of knowledge, pilot projects and lessons learned related to sea level rise and associated impacts, (2) better education, using consistent messages for lay audiences, about forecasts and the effects on lifelines, infrastructure, transportation and water supply and waste management, (3) acquisition of benefit-cost information that can be used to evaluate short-term and long-term costs of alternative planning scenarios, (4) improved leveraging of current and future efforts throughout the Northeast Region, and (5) engagement of professional media – television, newspapers, magazines, newsletters – to better deliver information to New England residents, businesses, and organizations. The workshop was supported by NOAA Coastal Services Center and planned through a contract with the [Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System](#) (GoMOOS). Workshop planners and on-site facilitators included Susan Russell-Robinson (DOI-USGS), Betsy Nicholson (NOAA-CSC), Adrienne Harrison (NOAA-CSC) and Ron Rosza (Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection). A workshop report will be released in early January.

For more about NROC go to: <http://community.csc.noaa.gov/nroc/>.



Minerals Management Service Approves Alaska's CIAP Plan

The State of Alaska will receive up to \$80 million through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) implemented by the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS). "Alaska plays a vital role in supporting our Nation's offshore energy program," said MMS Director Randall Luthi. "The Coastal Impact Assistance Program provides a means of sharing oil and gas revenues with local communities that are engaged in the hard work of supplying America's energy needs." The CIAP was established under section 384 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, through MMS, to distribute \$250 million annually to six states – Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas – all Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas producing states, in fiscal years 2007 through 2010. The Act requires that all CIAP funding be used for projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands; mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources; planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with CIAP legislation; implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan; or mitigation of the impact of OCS activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs. The funding for Alaska will be shared between the state and eight eligible boroughs.



To view the full press release visit: <http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2008/press1016a.htm>

To learn more about CIAP go to: <http://www.mms.gov/offshore/ciapmain.htm>

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Website Update Coming Soon...

We'll be updating our Ocean and Coastal Website in December. The website will become a one-stop access point for all information about DOI Ocean and Coastal Activities. Please send ideas and comments to bret_wolfe@fws.gov. If you haven't seen our website it's at <http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/ocean.html>



Ocean Education Corner

Looking for a great way to engage youngsters in understanding their actions anywhere in a watershed can affect beaches and the ocean? Check out [All the Way to the Ocean](#) by Joel Harper. This Green Earth Book Award winner delivers a clear strong message that youngsters can take action to promote healthy beaches and ocean by keeping sewer systems free from garbage. This book can inspire students and their families or neighborhood organizations to form clean up groups and organize clean up events. For more information about this book, see <http://www.allthewaytotheocean.com/>.

Upcoming Meetings and Events of Interest

9th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment: December 8-10, 2008, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. This year's conference titled *Biodiversity in a Rapidly Changing World* is an opportunity for dialogue with leading scientists, policy makers, government, civil society, industry leaders, educators, and other solutions-oriented innovators to develop a new biodiversity conservation strategy. For more information visit the conference website: <http://ncseonline.org/Conference/Biodiversity/>.

US Coral Reef Task Force Meeting: Feb. 23-27, Washington DC. At this meeting, the USCRTF will assess their collective efforts and accomplishments, highlight remaining needs and challenges, and continue to develop a foundation for a renewed commitment to action. Each state, territory, commonwealth, and freely associated state member will share their perspective on coral reef conservation in their jurisdiction. For more information visit <http://www.coralreef.gov/meetings.html>.

World Ocean Conference 2009: May 11-15, 2009, Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia. The World Ocean Conference (WOC) 2009 is a forum for the world community to discuss current issues in the marine field particularly those related to climate change. For more information visit the conference website: <http://www.woc2009.org>

Coastal Zone '09: July 19-23, 2009, Boston, MA. Our coastal and ocean landscape is changing, whether it's the climate, shoreline, habitat, or even the people setting and implementing policy. The attendees of Coastal Zone '09 will explore the many facets of change and share tools and information to help in managing our changing coastal and ocean resources. For more information visit the conference website: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/abstracts.html>.

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[DOI Ocean and Coastal Calendar – events, meetings, workshops, and other important dates](#)

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To submit a story for next month's NewsWave contact bret_wolfe@fws.gov. Suggestions and comments are always welcome. We maintain a DOI Oceans and Coastal calendar accessible either here or on our [website](#). Please forward details of any upcoming meetings or events concerning ocean, estuarine, or coastal issues that you would like included.

To learn more about the ocean and coastal activities of the participating agencies visit their websites:



National Park Service



Minerals Management Service



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Office of Insular Affairs



U.S. Geological Survey



Bureau of Land Management

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