



Law of the Sea Convention

By Margaret Hayes & Elizabeth Kim

The United States has important and diverse interests in the oceans. As the world's pre-eminent naval power, we have a national security interest in the ability to navigate and fly over the oceans freely. With one of the longest coastlines of any nation in the world, we have tremendous resource and environmental interests in the oceans. We are a leader in marine scientific research to better understand the oceans, including their role in global processes.

For these reasons, the United States has long been a leader in the international community's effort to develop a comprehensive legal framework governing uses of the oceans - the Law of the Sea Convention.

Law of the Sea Convention

The Law of the Sea Convention creates a structure for governance and protection of all marine areas, including the airspace above and seabed and subsoil below the ocean. Adopted in 1982, and modified by a 1994 Agreement relating to its deep seabed mining provisions, the Convention has been in effect since 1994. There are now 157 parties to the Convention, including almost all of the traditional allies of the United States.

The Law of the Sea Convention strikes the appropriate balance between the interests of countries in controlling activities off their own coasts and the interests of all nations in

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The Blue Economy: Understanding the Ocean's Role in our Nation's Financial Future CHOW 2009

By Ellen Gordon

The keynote speaker for this year's Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) was Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The forum was standing room only when she charged the group to grapple with "one of the grand challenges facing the world: restoring oceans to a healthy state and using them sustainably."

This annual symposium, hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, is designed to bring together a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of government, academia, industry and non-profit organizations. The goal this year was to highlight the inextricable link between the ocean and the economy, and to suggest tangible ways that sound ocean policies might improve our economy.

Dr. Lubchenco spoke of the blue-green economy, i.e., a vibrant, ocean-based economy that is both economically and environmentally sustainable. She suggested four essential steps toward achieving it:

1. Integration across sectors, using an ecosystem approach, with the goal of ensuring that the health of the ecosystem is a priority in decision making.
2. Incorporation of "ecosystem services" as

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All annual reports are now on The Coastal Society website.... For summaries of just what TCS has been doing for the last few years, please click on:
http://www.thecoastalsociety.org/annual_report.html



Though many urgent issues have occupied the Obama Administration and the 111th Congress—Detroit, Iran, Pakistan, health insurance, not to mention a financial meltdown, just to name a few—attention to global climate change and concern for the health of the ocean appears to be building momentum. Insert the keyword “ocean” into Thomas, the Library of Commerce search engine; you’ll discover that 80 ocean-related bills have been introduced into Congress so far this year! And on June 18th, the House of Representatives approved the FY10 budget for the Department of Commerce; it would provide the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with a \$4.6 billion budget, a 5% funding increase over FY09. It’s a start.

Findings from the 190-page report, “Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States” confirm what many of us have long accepted: climate change due to heat-trapping pollution is already occurring and is visible throughout the United States; the choices we make now will determine the severity of its impacts in the future. This nonpartisan report, released by the Obama administration but commissioned in 2007 during the Bush administration, is an authoritative assessment of up-to-date climate change science. It outlines climate-related trends and projections for the overall US, as well as for specific regions and sectors.

Across the United States, climate changes are already causing increases in temperatures, more heavy downpours, sea-level rise, less snow and ice cover, and other impacts. Heat waves will become more frequent; those downpours will cause more severe flooding; and agriculture will be increasingly challenged by insects, diseases and drought. Rising water temperatures and ocean acidification threaten coral reefs and diverse ecosystems with major implications for fisheries resources, the fishing industry and our coastal communities. Significant sea level rise and storm surges will increasingly threaten homes and coastal infrastructure; more coastal lands will be lost to rising seas. The report can be found at <http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts>

On June 19, in an open letter to the president and Congress, twenty well known U.S. climate scientists and experts called for urgent action on climate. “Strong leadership by the United States will be required to move the nations of the world away from what scientists increasingly recognize as a rapidly developing global climatic catastrophe. That leadership requires the insight, energy and relentless attention of the President and no less vigorous interest from both houses of the US Congress....Our purpose is to call attention to the large difference between what US politics now seems capable of enacting and what scientists understand is necessary to prevent climatic disruption and protect the human future. We urge President Obama to exercise maximum personal leadership beginning now to ensure that the strongest possible legislation emerges from the Congress...In 1992, more than 180 nations including the United States met in Rio de Janeiro, signed, and later ratified the Framework Convention on Climate Change and in so doing agreed to “stabilize” the heat-trapping gases of the atmosphere at levels that will protect human interests and nature. We, the nations globally, have not been true to our word, and climate is moving out from under civilization rapidly. Major droughts on every continent are but one current symptom of the scale of the global environmental corruption now entrained...The time for national action on climatic change is now. There has already been too much delay. The stakes are far too high to compromise the integrity of, and our responsibility for, prompt national action.”

On June 26th, by a vote of 219 to 212, the House passed a climate bill that would establish greenhouse gas limits and a system for trading emissions permits. The bill would require U.S. emissions to decline 17% by 2020, from 2005 levels, and to 83 percent below those levels by 2050. It would enforce the cap by requiring many sources of such pollution, including power plants, factories and oil refineries, to amass buyable, sellable credits equal to their emissions. Passage came with 8 Republicans voting in favor, and 44 Democrats voting against it. The Washington Post said that the “5 1/2 -hour floor debate featured Democratic leaders who

The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent TCS nor its Board.



called the bill a historic move against global warming, and Republicans who said its costs would pitch the country into economic ruin.” We can expect that similar legislation in the Senate is likely to require months of negotiations and compromise.

In 2012, the Kyoto Protocol to prevent global warming runs out. Late this year, the world will gather in Denmark to work on the terms of renewal. “Climate change is one of the epic challenges facing this and future generations. World leaders will come together for the Copenhagen climate change conference in December and every citizen of the world has a stake in the outcome. It is time to seal a deal. We need a global movement that mobilizes real change,” said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

- Ellen Gordon
TCS Editor
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Watch for the Call for Papers in September 2009

The Coastal Society is an organization of private sector, academic, and government professionals and students dedicated to actively addressing emerging coastal issues by fostering dialogue, forging partnerships, and promoting communication and education.



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protecting the freedom to use the ocean without undue interference.

The Convention stabilizes the outer limit of the territorial sea, in which a coastal nation can exercise nearly complete sovereignty, at 12 nautical miles (nm). It provides for a 200 nm exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf, in which each coastal nation enjoys sovereign rights over natural resources both living and non-living (for example, fisheries, oil, gas), but in which all nations enjoy traditional freedoms of navigation and overflight. The U.S. has the largest EEZ in the world.

The Convention provides for an extended continental shelf (ECS) beyond 200 nm if certain criteria are met. A coastal nation can exercise certain sovereign rights over its ECS, including exploration, exploitation, conservation, and management of non-living resources and of living, "sedentary" species, such as clams, crabs, and sponges. The United States has extensive areas - at least the size of two Californias - that meet the ECS criteria; the largest of these is in the Arctic.

The Convention contains an extensive framework for protection and preservation of the marine environment. It addresses the prevention, reduction, and control of marine pollution from all sources, the protection and preservation of rare or fragile ecosystems, and the duty not to transfer damage from one area to another.

The Convention promotes the ability of all countries to conduct marine scientific research and provides a framework for cooperation regarding such research. It confirms the right of coastal nations to require consent for research undertaken in marine areas under their jurisdiction, and balances this right with specific criteria to ensure that they exercise their consent in a predictable fashion to promote maximum access for research.

The United States and the Law of the Sea Convention

The United States has not yet joined the Law of the Sea Convention. However, since 1983 the United States has been abiding by, and enjoying the rights accorded by, the provisions of the Convention covering the traditional uses of the ocean, in accordance with the Ocean Policy Statement issued by President Ronald Reagan. All subsequent Administrations have supported the Convention. Almost every sector of the U.S. supports accession to the Convention, including the military, every major ocean industry, and environmental groups.

The advice and consent of two-thirds of the United States Senate present is required for the United States to join a

treaty. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has twice voted in favor of the Convention (a necessary pre-cursor to full Senate voting). However, the full Senate has not yet had the opportunity to vote on the treaty due to opposition by a small but vocal minority.

The Obama Administration is committed to joining the Law of the Sea Convention. Joining the Convention will serve the national security interests of the United States, secure U.S. sovereign rights over extensive marine areas, promote U.S. interests in the environmental health of the oceans, and give the United States a seat at the table when the rights essential to our interests are debated and interpreted. Other countries would certainly see U.S. accession to this Convention as a clear demonstration of our renewed leadership role in the international community.

The Law of the Sea Convention in Today's World

As the comprehensive framework governing virtually all activities in and on the oceans, the Law of the Sea Convention touches many and varied interests. Here we highlight a few areas that may be of particular interest to coastal managers.

Protection of the Marine Environment: Under the Law of the Sea Convention, nations have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment. This includes taking measures to deal with all sources of marine pollution - from vessels, from dumping, from land-based activities, from or through the atmosphere, and from seabed activities both within and beyond national jurisdiction - and taking additional measures to ensure compliance. The Convention also requires coastal nations to take measures to protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems and the habitat of threatened or endangered species and other marine life. The United States already complies with these requirements through a number of laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, and the Endangered Species Act. The Convention advances the interests of the United States both as a coastal nation that is committed to protecting the health and productive capacity of the oceans and as a major maritime power with security and economic interests in access to the oceans throughout the world.

Fisheries: The fishery provisions of the Law of the Sea Convention create the basic obligation for States to cooperate in the conservation and management of shared marine living resources. However, in 1992, in response to a growing crisis in a number of key ocean fisheries, the international community developed stronger rules to con-

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serve and manage fishery resources by negotiating a new treaty: The Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (“The Agreement”). The Agreement was adopted on August 4, 1995, and entered into force on December 11, 2001. The United States strongly supports the Agreement and was the third country to ratify. Currently there are 75 Parties to the Agreement. The Agreement is a critical tool for reversing global declines of fish populations. In particular, it prescribes a precautionary approach to fishery management and compatibility between measures adopted for stocks within coastal nation jurisdiction and on the high seas. The Agreement balances the sovereign rights of coastal nations with respect to resources in their EEZs with the rights of all countries to authorize their vessels to fish on the high seas.

Extended Continental Shelf: Under the Law of the Sea Convention, every coastal State has a continental shelf out to 200 nm from its coastal baselines (or out to a maritime boundary with another coastal State), and beyond that distance if certain criteria are met. The extended continental shelf (ECS) is that portion of the continental shelf that lies beyond this 200 nm limit. Since 2001, the United States has been gathering and analyzing data to determine the outer limits of its ECS. These efforts will allow the United States to determine the extent of U.S. rights to manage and use ECS mineral, petroleum, and living resources, as well as provide information to serve a range of environmental, geologic, engineering, and resource management needs. Almost all of the data collected so far by the United States in support of defining its ECS are publicly available from the National Geophysical Data Center and the Joint Hydrographic Center. The Convention also established a Commission that makes recommendations on the outer limits of the shelf beyond 200 nm in order to reduce the potential for dispute and uncertainty over such limits. The extended continental shelf belongs to the coastal nation, but the best way to gain international recognition and finality for the outer limits of the continental shelf will be to obtain recommendations through the Continental Shelf Commission process, which is available only to parties to the Convention.

The Arctic: The Arctic environment is unique and changing. The warming of the Arctic and the melting of sea ice there have profound implications for global commerce, energy exploration, and fisheries and other natural resource management. Increased human activity will bring many changes to the Arctic region, and yet the basic legal framework related to the Arctic Ocean - the law of

the sea - provides a sound basis for future cooperation among all nations. In May 2008, Russia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, and the United States issued the Ilulissat Declaration, which affirmed those nations’ commitment to the law of the sea as the legal framework applicable to the Arctic Ocean.

Marine Scientific Research: The Law of the Sea Convention provides coastal nation jurisdiction over the conduct of marine scientific research within its EEZ. The coastal nation also has certain controls over marine scientific research in areas of its continental shelf that extend beyond 200 nm. The Convention further provides that appropriate official channels be used to obtain access to an EEZ for marine scientific research. This requirement ensures that the researcher provides adequate and timely disclosure of the proposed research to the coastal nation; that the coastal nation provides adequate consideration of and timely response regarding the proposed research; and that the resulting data are delivered to the coastal nation in a timely fashion. The State Department serves as the conduit for U.S. publicly- and privately-funded researchers seeking foreign authorizations, as well as for foreign researchers seeking U.S. authorization.

The United States benefits more than any other nation from the provisions of the Law of the Sea Convention. As the world’s leading maritime power, U.S. national security and commercial interests in freedom of navigation and overflight are protected by the Convention. As a coastal nation with the most extensive coastline and exclusive economic zone in the world, the U.S. benefits by having its interests in offshore resources secured by the Convention. Continued U.S. leadership in the oceans depends on our participation in this now widely accepted agreement.

For more information on the Law of the Sea Convention, please visit the State Department’s website at:
www.state.gov/g/oes/ocns/opa/index.htm.

Margaret Hayes is Director of the Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. Elizabeth Kim, of the same office, is a foreign affairs officer working on law of the sea issues.



The Coastal Society - Coastal Management Journal

Special Theme Issue:

Dimensions of Leadership in Coastal Management

Call for Papers

Many scholars and practitioners recognize the multiple dimensions of issues present in coastal management. Managing the coastal zone occurs within a complex web of social, economic, political, bureaucratic and legislative dynamics. The activities that affect the coastal zone take place at several levels from local to regional, national, and even international. Similarly, innovative solutions and processes are developed and implemented by a range of actors from individuals to governmental and non-governmental organizations. However, there is a dearth of scholarship that addresses the role and multidimensionality of leadership in developing solutions to these issues.

Building on The Coastal Society's 21st International Conference held in Redondo Beach, California from June 29-July 3, 2008, this special edition of the Coastal Management Journal will focus on the different types of leadership that have led to innovations in policy and practice in coastal management. It will refine our conceptions of leadership by individuals or organizations; identify and analyze the roles that leadership plays in affecting changes in policy, behavior, or thinking; discuss the factors that facilitate or frustrate leadership; and offer strategies to enhance leadership by current and future coastal management professionals and concerned stakeholders.

The editors welcome submissions of both theoretical and empirical studies.

Topics could include, for instance:

1. Leadership in or by organizations
2. Case studies of leadership affecting behavioral change or better management practices
3. Dimensions of leadership found in coastal management
4. Leading by example; policy innovation and diffusion

All papers submitted for the special issue will go through a double blind peer review process. Papers from outside of the United States or the Conference will be welcomed and reviewed without bias. Upon receipt of a manuscript, the guest editors will ascertain if it falls within the purview of the issue and is of acceptable quality to send to a minimum of two outside reviewers. We anticipate publication of this issue in Spring 2010.

The deadline for submissions is July 15, 2009. All papers must be submitted electronically to Dr. Betsi Beem at (b.beem@usyd.edu.au). For information regarding this special issue please contact either Dr. Beem or Dr. Paul C. Ticco (paul.ticco@noaa.gov) who will serve as guest editors of this special Coastal Society issue.



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a tool to understand trade-offs in management and policy decisions.

3. Innovative approaches to improving the management of individual sectors, e.g., fishing, whose long-term success depends on healthy ocean ecosystems.

4. Making today's management decisions in light of the climate change and ocean acidification already underway.

Spanning two and a half days, the ten CHOW panels ranged from discussions of a national ocean policy, to talks about agriculture and energy development impacts on coastal and ocean resources, to coral concerns, to the ocean as source of important medicines for treating human disease, to an excited buzz about "marine spatial planning."

On the broad topic of ocean policy, there was consensus that we desperately need one! To protect resources, to provide predictability for ocean and coastal industries, to respond to climate change, to improve federal agency coordination, to enhance international interactions; it's clearly urgent that the United States define a strategy. Many needs were identified, beginning with articulating the values of oceans and coasts, codifying NOAA, and ensuring that the ocean impacts of climate change are part of the climate discussion. Increasing funding for NOAA is imperative for adequate data collection, additional science and analysis, resource protection and pollution solutions.

There was enthusiastic support from some members of Congress. Congressman Nick Rahall (WV) declared that, "We are at a crossroads and the time to act is now!"

Congressman Jay Inslee, (WA) is very concerned about ocean acidification, telling the audience that it is approaching levels that will kill all coral reefs within this century, if nothing is done. He is a strong supporter of efforts to further develop ocean energy sources, believing that if we can supply more of our energy needs from the oceans, we will thereby prevent more coal extraction and burning, and encourage the ocean's healing.

Senator Jeff Merkley (OR) was blunt, stating that if we don't change the course of CO₂ loading in the atmosphere, we are looking at a legacy of devastated ecosystems and civilization in chaos. The U.S. needs to get back to research and dialog, to get ready for Copenhagen and "tell 'em we're back!" Senator Rockefeller (WV), though unable to attend sent word that he is an enthusiastic supporter of the oceans and is calling for a doubling of NOAA's budget.

Congressman Sam Farr (CA), speaking of his state—number one in agricultural production in the US, with 400 different crops—emphasized the important role agriculture plays in retaining open space that would otherwise likely be paved over for homes and businesses. Even recognizing that farm runoff is a serious concern, Congressman Farr avowed that in a battle between agriculture and environmental issues, agriculture will always win. In reality, both sides need each other and have to figure out how to work together. Pointing to Detroit's implosion, he allowed that the automakers won all the battles—right up until they went bankrupt. The congressman has introduced HR 21 (commonly referred to as Oceans 21), "To establish a national policy for our oceans, to strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a national and regional ocean governance structure, and for other purposes." As he told the audience, "Life on earth comes from the ocean; if it dies, we all die."



Commercial Fishermen of America President Jim Ruhle speaks with NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco before Lubchenco's keynote address. Gloucestertimes.com.



Marine Litter Causes Problems from Top to Bottom of Food Chain

From discarded fishing gear to plastic bags to cigarette butts, a growing tide of marine litter is harming oceans and beaches worldwide, says a new report. This report, the first-ever attempt to take stock of the marine litter situation in the 12 major regional seas around the world, was launched on World Oceans Day by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Ocean Conservancy. The report's findings indicate that despite several international, regional and national efforts to reverse marine pollution, alarming quantities of rubbish thrown out to sea continue to endanger people's safety and health, entrap wildlife, damage nautical equipment and deface coastal areas around the world. Plastics and cigarettes top the 'Top Ten' of marine debris. Plastic debris is accumulating in terrestrial and marine environments worldwide, slowly breaking down into tinier and tinier pieces that can be consumed by the smallest marine life at the base of the food web. Plastics collect toxic compounds that then can get into the bodies of organisms that eat the plastic. Global plastic production is now estimated at 225 million tons per year.

A five-year survey of fulmars found in the North Sea region found that 95% of these seabirds contained plastic in their stomachs. Studies of the Northeast Atlantic plankton have found plastic in samples dating back to the 1960s, with a significant increase in abundance in time. Land-based activities are the largest source of marine litter. In Australia, surveys near cities indicate up to 80 percent of marine litter originating from land-based sources, with sea-based sources in the lead in more remote areas. <http://www.oceansportal.org/news/view/139800/>

TNC Launches New Toolkit for Marine Conservation Agreements (MCA)

The Nature Conservancy, with the assistance of partners, has just launched the new Practitioner's Toolkit for Marine Conservation Agreements at www.mcatoolkit.org. The new toolkit has expanded its substantive and geographic scope, to include: an Overview, which answers basic questions, dispels myths and defines terms; a downloadable Field Guide that walks practitioners

through a four phase process to; 1) analyze the feasibility of MCAs; 2) identify and engage stakeholders; 3) design agreements; and 4) implement agreements; Field Projects which provides 20 in-depth case studies and inventories

over 100 projects; Country and U.S. State Analyses that assess the legal and policy frameworks for MCAs in specific geographies; U.S. State Maps that identify where relevant spatial data can be accessed; and Resources which provides information on contacts and funding, publications and presentations, related tools, sample agreements and conferences. For more information, contact Jay Udelhoven, Senior Policy Advisor at The Nature Conservancy:

judelhoven@tnc.org or 206-343-4345, ext. 339.



Beach litter in Honolulu (Unknown)

EPA to Help Lead "New Era" of Partnership in Chesapeake Bay Restoration Efforts

An Executive Order signed by President Obama on May 12, 2009 calls for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and 6 other federal agencies to coordinate and expand federal tools and resources to help speed cleanup of the nation's largest estuary. Federal agencies are to create a draft federal strategy within 180 days of the signing of the executive order, including annual commitments and progress reports, with periodic reviews by an independent evaluator. EPA will work with its state partners to develop a bay-wide total maximum daily load by December 2010 that will assign strict pollution caps to meet the state's existing Chesapeake Bay water quality standards. EPA will also build a range of action to reduce air pollution that impacts the bay, including providing significant reductions in nitrogen and other pollutants emitted from power plants and other sources in the eastern United States. EPA will finance projects through the watershed to advance restoration of the bay.

NOAA Fisheries Releases 2008 Annual Report to Congress on the Status of U.S. Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries has released its Annual Report to Congress on the Status of U.S. Fisheries for 2008. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act re-

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quires the annual report to Congress and the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils on the status of fisheries (Sec. 304(e)(1)). 2008 represents the best single-year improvement in the number of stocks rebuilt, i.e., four. Major highlights of the report include: four stocks were declared fully rebuilt (monkfish - northern stock; monkfish - southern stock; bluefish - Atlantic coast; and king mackerel - Gulf of Mexico); three stocks are no longer subject to overfishing, and three stocks have increased in biomass and are no longer overfished; three stocks have been found to be subject to overfishing (a fourth determined to be subject to overfishing is undergoing further review) and four stocks have been determined to be overfished. Finally, the report declares that in all, 41 stocks are subject to overfishing and 46 stocks are overfished. Some of these stocks are managed under international agreements, and action by the international community is critical to ending overfishing. To view the report: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/sfweb/>
From CSO Weekly Report

New Report Highlighting the Ocean's Importance to the U.S. Economy

On June 8, a new report was issued by the National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP). The report highlights the overall economic value of the ocean and coasts and the critical need to ensure the health of ocean resources through additional federal resources targeting the protection of marine sanctuaries, marine protected areas and vital coastal habitats. NOEP provides a full range of the most current economic and socio-economic information available on changes and trends along the U.S. coast and in coastal waters. The program has been supported by federal, state, university, and private grants and contracts. For the past ten years, NOEP has compiled time-series data that tracks economic activities, demographics, natural resource production, non-market values, and federal expenditures in the U.S. coastal zone both on land and in the water. It has found that coastal states account for 83% of the U.S. economy. It notes that, at this time of global economic crisis, when U.S. policy makers are also recognizing the enormous importance of the oceans and coastal areas, this report demonstrates that the nation's economy depends on a healthy ocean.
<http://noep.mbari.org/NationalReport/>

Atlantic Ocean Hurricane Season Began on June 1

An average season is predicted. Shaping this seasonal outlook is the possibility of competing climate factors. Supporting more activity this season are conditions associated with the ongoing high-activity era that began in 1995, which include enhanced rainfall over West Africa, warmer Atlantic waters and reduced wind shear. But activity could

be reduced if El Nino develops in the equatorial Eastern Pacific this summer or if ocean temperatures in the eastern tropical Atlantic remain cooler than normal. NOAA scientists will continue to monitor evolving conditions in the tropics and will issue an updated hurricane outlook in early August, just prior to what is historically the peak period for hurricane activity.
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

EPA Watershed Website

EPA has launched Watershed Central, a website designed to help organizations find environmental data, watershed models, local organizations, guidance documents, and other information. The site contains links to watershed technical resources, funding sources, mapping applications, and information specific to individual watersheds.
<http://www.epa.gov/watershedcentral/>

Coastal Climate Adaptation Website

NOAA's Coastal Services Center has released the Coastal Climate Adaptation website which focuses on adaptation-related resources, such as local and state plans, new policies, case studies, risk and vulnerability assessments, and decision-support tools. The one-stop website was designed for states and communities that seek information about what others are doing to address climate change. The site also provides access to basic climate science resources and has a forum where users can suggest new

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Turtle Island, Philippines, WWF



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resources, engage in dialogue on the issues, and submit comments and questions.

<http://community.csc.noaa.gov/climateadaptation/>

Climate Refugees from Island Nations on the Rise

Rising sea levels are already taking a toll on island nations in the South Pacific, with the world's first climate refugees beginning a migration that is likely to continue for decades, reports *The Washington Times*. Residents of Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu have been forced to move from low-lying areas. New Zealand has agreed to accept migrants from Tuvalu, which experts think will be completely submerged by the middle of the century. Residents from the Carteret Islands, which are roughly 70 miles (112.6 kilometers) northeast of New Guinea, are being moved to the larger and more densely populated, autonomous island of Bougainville. Canada is funding the relocation of residents from parts of Vanuatu affected by global warming. A recent report issued by Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) stated that the Pacific region is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The Pacific islands comprise 22 nations with 7 million residents.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/apr/19/rising-sea-levels-in-pacific-create-wave-of-migran/print/>

Aquatic Alien Invasive Species and Risk Assessment

The Trinational Risk Assessment Guidelines for Aquatic Alien Invasive Species has been released by the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (Canada, the US and Mexico) to provide a standardized process for evaluating the risk to biodiversity of introducing aquatic non-indigenous organisms into a new environment. The Guidelines provide a framework for organizing scientific, technical, and other relevant information for use by managers and decision makers.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=2494.

Lion Fish, an invasive species to the Caribbean. NOAA



A Summary of President Obama's Memorandum Establishing an Inter-agency Ocean Policy Task Force, Signed June 12, 2009

To succeed in protecting the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, the United States needs to act within a unifying framework under a clear national policy, including a comprehensive, ecosystem-based framework for the longterm conservation and use of our resources.

In order to better meet our Nation's stewardship responsibilities for the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, there is established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (Task Force), to be led by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. The Task Force shall be composed of senior policy-level officials from the executive departments, agencies, and offices represented on the Committee on Ocean Policy established by section 3 of Executive Order 13366 of December 17, 2004. This Task Force is not meant to duplicate that structure, but rather is intended to be a temporary entity with the following responsibilities:

1. Within 90 days from the date of this memorandum, the Task Force shall develop recommendations that include:
 - a. A national policy that ensures the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, enhances the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, and provides for adaptive management to respond to climate change. The Task Force should review the federal government's existing policy coordination framework to ensure integration and collaboration across jurisdictional lines in meeting the objectives of a national policy for the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
 - b. An implementation strategy that identifies and prioritizes a set of objectives the United States should pursue to meet the objectives of a national policy for the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
2. Within 180 days from the date of this memorandum, the Task Force shall develop, with appropriate public input, a recommended framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning.
3. The Task Force shall terminate upon the completion of its duties.

The Task Force's recommendations and frameworks should be cost effective and improve coordination across Federal agencies.



Report from the 2009 Blue Vision Summit, March 7-10, 2009

by Judy Tucker

TCS Executive Director Judy Tucker was one of 400 people from more than 200 ocean organizations to attend the 2009 Blue Vision Summit in Washington, DC. Organizations represented ranged from Clean Ocean Action and the Surfrider Foundation to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Coast Guard. They came together for three days of ocean and coastal community building.

In 2004, when Ralph Nader asked David Helvarg if anyone was working on promoting unity, providing tools for or enhancing awareness of the grass roots ocean movement, the Blue Frontier Campaign was born, with a mission statement to accomplish just that. The Campaign's multi-point plan of action begins by calling for organizing a national conference of "seaweed rebels" to establish a common ocean agenda, and to crusade for an American Oceans Act to protect our seas.

The agenda of this year's conference was intended to update the scientists, activists, policy makers and business people in attendance on critical issues, and to inspire them to deliver a signed letter to their representatives in Congress that asks them to make a healthy ocean a major priority. Attendees learned that we must insert oceans into the discussion about climate change, energy, national security and human health. Speakers such as Representative Sam Farr (CA), Representative Madeline Bordello (Guam), and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) emphasized the need to: establish a national ocean policy, provide a steady source of funding for it, and implement the policy through science-based management.

White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley spoke of tackling environmental issues including climate emissions, a mercury treaty and "the numerous issues facing our ocean and coasts such as (climate linked) sea level rise, ocean acidification, coastal adaptation and resiliency." Representatives from California, New York and Massachusetts state governments presented examples of how states have made measurable progress toward addressing these issues. When asked how the federal government could assist the states, it was suggested that the CZMA be

reauthorized and that support be provided for state preparedness for climate impacts and adaptations. A panel of television, radio and print journalists admitted that the economic downturn has affected media coverage of complex environmental stories which require long-term solutions. To get coverage of the good news and solutions available, they suggested shaping stories that show how people are impacted as well as the steps that individuals can take to be part of the solution.

The Blue Vision Summit provided an opportunity to reach out to a broad array of organizations interested in ocean issues. Not being a "seaweed rebel," espousing a position or engaging the general public in action or education, TCS differed somewhat from most of the organizations in attendance. However as individuals, TCS members are highly involved in finding and advocating solutions whether through research developing tools and models, adapting best management practices from elsewhere to their area of concern, or probing stakeholders about the economic and health impacts they cause or receive from the ecosystems around them. (The TCS members I spoke with seemed surprised, but pleased, to see me there.) Attending as TCS representative was valuable in letting other organizations know that The Coastal Society is here as a source of expertise and as a partner in the diverse ocean constituency.

Member Benefits

One of your newest TCS benefits is online access to the Coastal Management Journal. The latest issue includes the following articles:

"Cultural Models of the Coast in Australia: Toward Sustainability" by Laura Stocker and Deborah Kennedy

"Developing a Spatially Enabled Inventory of Recreational Boats Using Vessel Registration Data" by Robert A. Swett, Charles Sidman, Timothy Fik and Bill Sargent

"Native People and Planning for Marine Protected Areas: How 'Stakeholder' Processes Fail to Address Conflicts in Complex, Real-World Environments" by Sara Singleton



People and the Sea V: Living with Uncertainty and Adapting to Change

July 9-11, 2009, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.marecentre.nl

Coastal Zone '09, Revolutionary Times: Catching the Wave of Change

July 19-23, 2009, Boston, MA
www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/index.html

Conference on Coastal Environmental Sensing Networks

July 23-24, 2009, Boston, MA
 University of Massachusetts Boston Center for Coastal Environmental Sensing Networks (CESN) forum to share state-of-the-art technology.
<http://www.cesn.org/events/cesn09.php>

94th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America

August 2-7, 2009, Albuquerque, NM
<http://esa.org/albuquerque/>

6th International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions

August 24-27, 2009, Portland, OR
<http://www.clr.pdx.edu/mbic/>

3rd International Conference on Estuaries & Coasts

September 4-16 2009, Sendai, Japan <http://donko.civil.tohoku.ac.jp/icec2009/index.html>

12th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration

September 15-18, 2009, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada
<http://www.gov.pe.ca/shellfishconf>

6th International Conference on Coastal Dynamics

September 7-11, 2009, Tokyo, Japan
<http://www.coastaldynamics.org/>

Water Resources Management 2009, 5th International Conference on Sustainable Water Resources Management

September 9-11, 2009, Malta
<http://www2.wessex.ac.uk/09-conferences/water-resources-management-2009.html>

3rd International Conference on Estuaries & Coasts

September 14-16, 2009, Sendai, Japan
<http://donko.civil.tohoku.ac.jp/icec2009/index.html>

CoastGIS '09, 9th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management

September 30-October 2, 2009, Santa Catarina, Brazil
<http://www.coastgis.com.br/index.php>

Integrating Coastal Science and Policy, the National Conference of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association

October 14-16, 2009, St. Pete Beach, Florida
<http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conferences.htm>

20th Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation; Estuaries and Coasts in a Changing World

November 1-5, 2009, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon. Abstract submission deadline: May 15, 2009.
<https://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2009/>

28th Submerged Lands Management Conference

November 1-5, 2009, Portland, Oregon
<http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2009/>

International Symposium on Integrating Offshore Renewable Energy Systems & Aquaculture

November 2-4, 2009, Newport, RI
<http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/baird/2009/index.html>

MEDCOAST 09, 9th International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment

November 10-14, 2009, Sochi, Russia
<http://www.medcoast.org.tr>

International Conference on Coastal Zone Management of River Deltas and Low Land Coastlines

March 6-10, 2010, Alexandria, Egypt
<http://www.nwrc-egypt.info>

Monitoring from the Summit to the Sea, 7th National Conference of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council

April 25-29, 2010, Denver, CO
<http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2010/index.html>

Coastal Zone Canada 2010

July 25-29, 2010, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada <http://www.gov.pe.ca/czc2010>.

6th International Conference on Marine Wastewater Discharges and Coastal Environment

October 25-29, 2010, Langkawi, Malaysia
http://www.mwwd.org/site/page.asp?dsy_id=3331

2nd International Symposium on Integrated Coastal Zone Management

June 12-16, 2011, Arendal, Norway
<http://www.imr.no/iczm/homeces>



Board Proposes Changes to TCS By-Laws

Why change the bylaws? One exciting reason is to propose some new membership categories that just might benefit you now or in the future. Another reason is to reflect the growth of TCS by adding a committee for chapters since we now have five chapters affiliated with TCS. Of course, there is always the standard reason that the bylaws should include all the important practices and activities so members like you can take full advantage of your membership.

Recently you and all TCS members were sent an email announcing the recommended changes and asking you to vote. The proposed changes, an explanation for them, and a ballot form can all be found on the TCS web site under Membership in the Members Only section. Members are asked to vote for or against the proposed changes. Whichever way you decide to vote, PLEASE VOTE! It takes a majority of the membership to pass the changes. Don't count on someone else voting. Read the proposed changes, decide for yourself, and cast your vote.

Here's a synopsis of the proposed changes (full text available on the web site):

Article V: Membership Changes proposed include:

New Professional - a person who has been out of school for fewer than two years; reduced dues

Retired Professional - a person who is over age 65 and retired; reduced dues

Corporate Membership - includes up to four contact people to receive the benefits of Regular membership, and additional recognition for corporate sponsors and partners.

Institutional Membership - includes up to two contact people to receive the benefits of Regular membership, and additional recognition for institutes, universities, Sea Grant programs, etc.

Honorary Membership - may be awarded by the Board to an outstanding individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to TCS and/or the field of Coastal and Ocean Management

The Library Membership Category has been in practice and will be added to the Bylaws.

The "Individual" membership category has been renamed "Regular."

All categories except Library members shall have the right to vote.

Article X: Officers

Adds language describing the procedure for how you elect the TCS Officers and Directors.

Article VI: Dues

Updates the language concerning dues to reflect the calendar year basis for charging dues.

Article XIII: Committees

Formalizes two standing committees: Chapters and Executive Committees.

Article XVI: Awards

The bylaws formalize the existing Robert W. Knecht Award to a rising professional in the field of coastal and ocean management.

Article XIX: Amendments

This language proposes a change to the procedure for amending the bylaws to allow for a comment period preceding a vote at the TCS Annual Meeting. This change is proposed because of the difficulty TCS has had historically in being able to secure a sufficient number of votes.

Please exercise your right to vote!



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Univ. of Washington Student Chapter
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East Carolina Student Chapter
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO THE COASTAL SOCIETY

(Please print out and complete all blanks.)

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Organization: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Address (if preferred mailing address):

Day Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Present Occupation: _____

Primary Interest: _____

Sponsored/Referred by: _____

Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____

Type of Membership:

Individual Regular: ___ \$60 U.S. 1-year

Student: ___ \$20 U.S.

U.S. Library: ___ \$50 U.S.

Corporate/Agency: ___ \$250 U.S.

Dues Payment:

Select membership category.

To pay by check: Make check payable to: The Coastal Society. Please mail check and application to: PO Box 3590, Williamsburg, VA 23187-3590.

To pay by credit card: We cannot accept credit card information other than through the PayPal option. Please go to the TCS online membership form if you wish to pay by credit card (<http://www.thecoastalsociety.org/membersub.html>).

Thank you for your support.

The Coastal Society is an organization of private sector, academic, and government professionals and students dedicated to actively addressing emerging coastal issues by fostering dialogue, forging partnerships, and promoting communication and education.