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June 3-6, 2012, Hyatt Regency, Miami, Florida.**

Conference website

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Watch for the Call for Papers in September 2011

**The 2011 Blue Vision Summit:
The Seaweed Rebels Return to
Washington, DC**

By Sean Dixon

From May 20th to May 23rd at George Washington University in Washington, DC, ocean advocates, conservationists, and leaders from across the nation came together in one voice to bring attention to ocean and coastal issues ranging from acidification and plastic pollution to wetlands and stormwater infrastructure. Over 400 advocates representing artists, surfers, filmmakers, scientists, fishermen, community organizers, and coastal businesses attended the Blue Vision Summit.

This Summit, the third in a series of "Blue Vision" conferences, was organized with grass-roots level work coordinated by the Blue Frontier Campaign's David Helvar, a celebrated author and fierce ocean advocate. At the 2011 Summit, notable attendees included Dr. Sylvia Earle, Celine Cousteau, Barton Seaver, Dr. Steve Palumbi, Admiral Thad Allen (USCG-Ret.), Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Wendy Benchley, Jim Toomey, Juliet Eilperin, Chris Palmer, Brian Skerry, Margo Pellegrino, Carl Safina, Louie Psihoyos, and U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. One part conference and two parts inspiration, the Summit was an opportunity to learn from successful ocean initiatives and campaigns from across the nation.

Instead of diving right into ecology and policy discussions, the opening act of the

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**Interview with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's
Climate Ready Estuaries
Program**

Bulletin Editor (BE): Please describe the Coastal Ready Estuaries program.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Estuaries and coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to climate variability and change. In order to protect their ecosystems from projected impacts of sea level rise, increasing temperatures, and other effects, coastal managers may need to develop and implement adaptation measures. The Climate Ready Estuaries (CRE) program works with National Estuary Programs (NEPs) and other coastal managers to assess climate change vulnerabilities develop and implement adaptation strategies, engage stakeholders, and share lessons learned with coastal managers. NEPs are based in state and local governments, or academic and other non-profit institutions around the U.S.

EPA's National Estuary Program was established to protect, restore and maintain a balanced and indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife and water quality in estuaries designated as nationally significant. Priority actions include: protecting and restoring coastal habitat; monitoring for and assessing the extent of toxics and pathogen contamination; developing and implementing nutrient reduction strategies; and implementing climate change adapta-

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Dear TCS Members,

And with that, summer begins - a season filled with sun-drenched days and starry nights. This reminds me of one of my favorite summer quotes from William Carlos Williams: "In summer, the song sings itself." Summer is an especially busy yet fruitful season for those of us in the field of resource management and policy. As a resident of North Carolina, my summers typically are filled with trips to the coast and the mountains, engaging visitors and fellow North Carolinians alike on the complex natural resource policy challenges we must meet. Issues such as climate change adaptation, natural hazards resilience, protecting cultural resources and addressing changes to coastal communities can be felt whether one is gazing past sand dunes towards the expanse of ocean or hiking a mountain clear across the state. Summer presents to us all the opportunity to see and understand that coastal issues are critical to us all, whether one is a coastal resident or seasonal visitor.

As I write this letter, planning has begun for the TCS 23 conference, which will be held in Miami, Florida from June 3-6, 2012. Miami, and the South Florida region in general, are in the midst of tackling a myriad of coastal challenges - from Everglades restoration and water resources planning to management of a region that continues to become ever more urbanized. Regions throughout the world are grappling with similar issues, and this will set the stage for meaningful dialogue at the conference. In addition, Miami is awash with cultural diversity, which is one of the area's greatest strengths in my opinion. South Florida is also home to countless ecological treasures, many of them coastal in nature. I'm very excited that TCS will be holding its next conference in the Miami area, and I hope you are too.

The beginning days of conference planning are especially fun because the planning committee can exercise its talent for creativity by developing a conference theme, technical program tracks and plenary topics. I invite you to join the planning committee and contribute your ideas and enthusiasm. Even if you are unable to join the planning committee, please consider sending your ideas to the TCS office. We welcome any input you may have. Conference planning is a great way to become more involved in TCS, make lasting connections and to help TCS further its mission.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!

Regards,

Lisa C. Schiavinato
TCS President



Alligator mississippiensis photographed in Everglades National Park. Credit: Ryulong

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



“May you live in interesting times” is reputed to be an ancient Chinese proverb—or curse. While Wikipedia says that actual documentation of its Chinese origins has never been found, from my perch here in the Washington, DC area, I feel confident saying that these are interesting times. Implementation of the National Ocean Policy is gaining some momentum. Drafts of the outlines of the Strategic Action Plans were released by the National Ocean Council in June and a public listening session was held here in Washington DC (and 11 more were held around the country), as the Administration seeks to move towards execution of the policy. The first ever National Business Forum on Marine Spatial Planning is also being held in DC, on July 13-14, for businesses interested in future use of marine space and resources. Cosponsored by the Batelle Memorial Institute and the National Ocean Industries Association, the conference—whose purpose is “to catalyze proactive ocean industry engagement”—is screening registrants to assure that they are members of the private sector ocean business community.

Climate change continues to be the subject of a lot of vociferous discussion, as evidence mounts that we are already experiencing some of the effects of change—including extreme river flooding in the US and China, extraordinary droughts in Texas and in East Africa, this spring’s severe US tornado season, the increasing rate of annual average sea level rise and growing acidity in some ocean locales. On the other hand, that evidence does not deter climate deniers, who held their own conference in Washington DC. Hosted by the Heartland Institute—a conservative group funded by Exxon Mobil and Charles Koch—on June 30-July 1, the event boasted a full agenda of climate deniers.

The Blue Vision Summit, “a whole other kettle of fish,” as it’s described by organizer and author David Helvarg, brought ocean leaders, artists, conservationists and activists together on May 20-23, for a gathering that was one part celebration and three parts call to action. To learn more about the Summit, be sure to read the article that begins on our front cover, as well as the panel summaries that begin on page 10.

Wikipedia also says that old Chinese adage is just the first of three curses of increasing severity, the next being, “may you come to the attention of powerful people” and the last, “may you find what you are looking for.” But I’m still working out the implications of those two...

Ellen Gordon,
Bulletin Editor
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The Coastal Society at Coastal Zone 2011

Coastal Zone 2011 begins July 17, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency, Chicago, Illinois. The Coastal Society has two events occurring at the conference. The first is a session entitled, “Finding that Perfect Coastal Job,” Tuesday, July 19, 2:45 - 4:00 pm; Track 2, #6 Cafe Conversation.

The second is the TCS Annual Membership Meeting, Wednesday, July 20 7:00 to 8:00 am in the Hong Kong Room, and includes a continental breakfast.



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Summit was more of an artistic exploration and celebration of the seas. During a silent auction featuring beautiful paintings and ocean-themed photography (by Wyland, Jim Toomey, and others), films, documentaries, and dance performances were presented by Greg MacGillivray, Jon Bowermaster, George Schellenger, Jim Abernethy, Céline Cousteau, and Kristin McArdle Dance. An “authors’ panel” later in the evening brought together Carl Safina, David Helvarg, and Chef Barton Seaver to discuss the art of using prose to change policy.



Blue Vision Summit © BlueFrontier.org

The themes of this year’s Summit ranged broadly from Gulf of Mexico restoration to the new National Ocean Policy, and everything in between. During an action-packed first day of the Summit, conference attendees were treated to a sneak peek of a new film on the Deepwater Horizon disaster by Louie Psihoyos (Academy Award winning director of *The Cove*). Panels and workshops brought activists from all over the Gulf Coast region to DC to talk about the ongoing disaster in the Gulf - beaches are still oiled, fisheries have not yet rebounded, residents are still having trouble getting financial and medical help. NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco, retired Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen (the former chief of the federal Deepwater Horizon response team), and Dr. Donald Boesch of the President’s National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling came together on a panel to discuss any and all aspects of the spill - from the decision to use the chemical dispersant Corexit to how the government has changed its procedures and regulations to better prevent similar disasters in the future.

Beyond the Deepwater Horizon disaster and its implications, Gulf of Mexico panels discussed the dire need for politicians and regulators to take a hard look at other, non-oil-related issues facing the marine and coastal ecosystem in the Gulf. Climate change impacts (from acidification to sea level rise), pollution, dead zones, land subsidence and wetland losses are threatening the already-fragile ecosystem; without action on these is-

sues, the Gulf of the future will not be resilient enough to withstand even modest future oil spills or hurricanes. These discussions were particularly relevant given the wave of amnesia currently blanketing the United States; on the first anniversary of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, politicians from coast to coast (and in both parties)

are clamoring for expanded offshore oil and gas drilling, even before any new safety, oversight, or enforcement laws have been passed.

On the second day of the Summit, the conference switched gears from the Gulf to the new National Ocean Policy (NOP). Discussing the NOP meant that panels and workshops tackled issues from the federal level (on funding for ocean initiatives) to the local and regional (water system infrastructure needs for coastal communities). Starting at the top, Summit attendees heard news from Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) and representatives of NOAA and regional ocean programs that political opposition to new environmental programs may result in a late start-date for NOP benchmarks. With recent expansions in oil drilling, coastal nuclear issues in Japan, sea level rise, and increasing rates of coastal ecosystem losses (from mangroves to wetlands), it was discouraging to see that vital coastal policy reforms may be delayed.

In a series of locally- and regionally-themed panels, presentations were made on urban oyster farms, strategies for combating Liquefied Natural Gas terminals, state-level advances in marine planning and offshore renewable energy, expansions in the works for marine protected areas, and on how religion, youth activists, and recreational uses of the oceans can help make positive impacts on coastal ecosystem protection. Conference organizers intended the weekend to be as inspirational as it was practical. The Blue Vision Summit and the panelists that brought examples of successful ocean protection programs delivered on that goal.

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The Summit ended with an all-hands-on-deck “Capitol Hill Ocean Education Day,” where Summit-goers flooded Senate and House office buildings carrying messages demanding a clean ocean, to elected officials from across the nation. Over 250 ocean advocates formed into regional teams that split into smaller groups of constituents to talk to environmental staffers, legislative directors, and elected officials in over 70 offices, on the need to fund and codify the National Ocean Policy and to carry out dozens of important local-ocean initiatives. Bipartisanship was the goal of the day – waves, whales and whelks don’t vote along party lines and don’t follow political borders, nor should elected officials from coastal districts.

Information packets and informal meetings were held in dozens of other offices of elected officials that similarly conveyed the message that a grassroots network of marine and coastal organizations are unhappy with a patchwork of two dozen agencies enforcing over a hundred separate (and sometimes contradictory) laws. Businesses, fisheries, tourism, and a healthy public all depend on preventing the degradation of the marine environment, a message that Capitol Hill Ocean Education Day participants worked to spread. Congress and the White House, according to the messaging of the Ocean Hill Day,

need to work together to come up with a holistic, cross-cutting, ecosystem-wide approach to managing and protecting the oceans, and it needs to happen soon.

Overall, the Blue Vision Summit succeeded in meeting its goal of bringing grassroots coastal and marine advocates together to inspire them

to work toward bigger and better successes and to give them the tools to do so. The Summit artfully highlighted how broad incorporation of media outlets, social networks, films, students, religious communities, and businesses can turn the tide in local marine initiatives. Grassroots (or, as the Blue Vision Summit organizers say: “Seaweed Rebels”) advocacy is often where the most bipartisan, effective, and implementable changes to the status quo originate; with climate change, expanded offshore oil drilling, pollution dead zones, and acidification at our docks, this Summit successfully recharged our collective optimism for the future.



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Charlotte Vick addresses the audience. Credit: Liz Smith © BlueFrontier.org



Sean Dixon is the Coastal Policy Attorney at Clean Ocean Action, a regional non-profit environmental group that works to clean the coastal and marine waters of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean and the NY/NJ Harbor Bight. After studying marine biology at Boston U's Woods Hole Program, Sean earned a JD and a Climate Change Law LLM from Pace Law School and an M.E.M. from Yale's Forestry School. Sean is a former Alaskan fisheries observer and worked for two years as a Lecturer at Yale University teaching courses on Coastal and Ocean Policy, prior to joining Clean Ocean Action.



U.S. Supreme Court Rejects Climate Change Nuisance Claims

In an 8-0 opinion, the U.S. Supreme Court held on June 20 that federal courts do not have jurisdiction to hear federal common law nuisance claims relating to greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions, because the authority to regulate GHGs has been delegated to EPA, not to federal courts. *American Electric Power Co. v. Connecticut* (“AEP”). The AEP decision reverses a ruling by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. While rejecting the merits of the plaintiffs’ claims, the Court held that the plaintiffs had standing to bring them on a 4-4 split among the Justices. Justice Sotomayer, who had participated in the Second Circuit decision, recused herself. The Court did not decide whether state common law claims would also be barred. The Second Circuit had not reached that issue, and the parties did not brief it to the Court; consequently, the Court remanded that issue. Excerpted from Marten Law News, article by Steve Jones. <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=71d3da2a824c7c94c74bbaa8e&id=1191b129ac&e=a706bcc595>

Warming Ocean Waters Causing Largest Movement of Marine Species in Two Million Years

In the Arctic, melting sea ice during recent summers has permitted a passage to open up from the Pacific ocean into the North Atlantic, allowing plankton, fish and even whales into the Atlantic Ocean from the Pacific. Plankton sampling in the north Atlantic over the past 70 years has shown that species of plankton, normally found only in the Pacific ocean, have now become common in Atlantic waters. Larger species including a grey whale have also been found to have made the journey through the passage. Professor Chris Reid, from the Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, said, “The implications are huge. The last time there was an incursion of species from the Pacific into the Atlantic was around two to three million years ago—and large numbers of Atlantic species went extinct. Dr. Carlo Heip, director general of the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, which led the project, a collaboration of more than 17 insti-

tutes in 10 different countries, said, “We need to learn much more about what’s happening in Europe’s seas, but the signs already point to far more trouble than benefit from climate change. Despite the many unknowns, it’s obvious that we can expect damaging upheaval as we overturn the workings of a system that’s so complex and important.” The researchers conclude that these changes will have serious implications for commercial fisheries and on the marine environment. Excerpted from The Telegraph, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earth-news/8598597/Warming-oceans-cause-largest-movement-of-marine-species-in-two-million-years.html>

High Costs Hampering Use of Algae for Biofuels

The cost of farming algae as a biofuel must be cut by about 90 percent if it is to become commercially viable and reduce pressure on food prices, according to research by Dutch scientists. Major companies including oil giant Exxon Mobil Corp, Finnish refiner Neste Oil and Dutch

vitamin maker DSM are investing in algae production technology in order to develop biofuel. It could eventually help ease demand and price pressures on food crops that also are used to produce biofuel, such as palm oil. The oil content in algae ranges from 20 to 60 percent, which means that between 20,000 and 80,000 liters of oil can be produced per hectare of algae a year, according to Wageningen University research. By comparison, a hectare of palm oil



Incubation tanks at the algae farm near Niland. Credit: Jim Demattia

plantation produces about 6,000 liters of oil per year. But the cost of production of biofuel from algae is 10 times the cost of palm oil-derived biofuel, said Rene Wijffels, a professor at Wageningen who is also scientific director at an experimental algae farm run by several scientists at the university. Wijffels predicts that it could take 15 to 20 years to develop sufficient production to relieve pressure on food prices arising from a rising population and greater use of biodiesel. Raffaello Garofallo, an executive director of the European Algae Biomass Association, said the European Commission has set aside funds for three algae production facilities, which should start operating in

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the next two to three years. "Algae have huge potential," he told Reuters. "There are even some efforts to have seaweed in the offshore wind parks. But the real challenge is technology." Excerpted from Planet Ark, <http://planetark.org/wen/62350>

EPA/Corps Release Draft Guidance in Bid to Expand Federal Jurisdiction Over Wetlands

The Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have published proposed guidance which describes their view of the federal government's authority to regulate wetlands. The 2011 Guidance provides the agencies' views on the reach of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) in light of the Supreme Court's decisions in *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (SWANCC)* and *Rapanos v. United States (Rapanos)*. It is intended to supersede a 2003 "Joint Memorandum" providing clarifying guidance



Winter marsh at low tide in Chesapeake Bay
Credit:NOAA Photo Library/Mary Hollinger

on SWANCC, and a 2008 Joint Guidance memo issued after the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in *Rapanos*. The 2011 Guidance will, if adopted, significantly expand federal CWA jurisdiction over millions of acres of property, and very likely be challenged. The public comment period ends on July 1, 2011. Excerpted from Marten Law News, article by Jeff Kray. <http://martenlaw.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=71d3da2a824c7c94c74bbaa8e&id=b774d11023&e=a706bcc595>

Major Flooding on the Mississippi River Predicted to Cause Largest Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone Ever Recorded

The Gulf of Mexico's hypoxic zone is predicted to be the largest ever recorded due to extreme flooding of the Mississippi River this spring, according to an annual forecast by a team of NOAA-supported scientists from the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, Louisiana State University and the University of Michigan. The forecast is based on Mississippi River nutrient inputs compiled annually by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Scientists are predicting the area could measure between 8,500 and 9,421 square miles, or an area roughly the size of New Hampshire. If it does reach those levels it will be the largest since mapping of the Gulf "dead zone" began in 1985. The largest hypoxic zone measured to date occurred in 2002 and encompassed more than 8,400 square miles. The hypoxic zone off the coast of Louisiana and Texas threatens valuable commercial and recreational Gulf fisheries. In 2009, the dockside value of commercial fisheries in the Gulf was \$629 million. Nearly three million recreational fishers further contributed more than \$1 billion to the Gulf economy taking 22 million fishing trips. Excerpted from NOAA Website, http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110614_deadzone.html

Marine Biodiversity Observation Network

The National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) recently released "Attaining an Operational Marine Biodiversity Observation Network Synthesis Report." The document is the result of a three-day workshop held at the Consortium for Ocean Leadership to plan for the implementation of a sustainable marine Biodiversity Observing Network (BON). Currently, there is no standardized, coordinated approach to monitoring marine biodiversity, the degree of variation in marine life forms. According the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Partnerships, maintenance of marine biodiversity may be a key factor for sustained ecosystem health, which humans depend on daily for food and jobs. Thirty-five scientists and 13 representatives of seven federal agency sponsors (NOAA, NASA, MMC, ONR, NSF, BOEMRE, and the Smithsonian Institution) met in May 2010 to discuss the overarching components of BON, which culminated in this pioneering report. It provides a set of recommendations and case studies for implementing a national and global marine BON. The entire report is available here. For more information on NOPP, visit the program's website. Provided by TCS member Hilary Goodwin, hgoodwin@OceanLeadership.org



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tion strategies and tools.

BE: How long has the program existed, and how does it differ from previously existing programs?

EPA: CRE began in 2008 as a pilot to support the climate adaptation needs of the NEPs. CRE is distinguished for being one of the first federal efforts to focus on climate change adaptation and is one of the few federal examples of a voluntary partnership with local stakeholders to assist with the planning and implementation of a climate adaptation plan.

BE: Why would someone, e.g., a state coastal management official want to get involved in CRE? If someone did want to get involved, how would they do so?

EPA: The CRE program has been sponsoring projects with NEPs to produce a suite of approaches and examples of what can be done to plan for climate change. In addition, EPA has produced a variety of resource documents for coastal management officials. The agency encourages partnerships with local NEPs as a key way to get involved with CRE projects.

BE: Please explain how the program works, e.g., what is your grants program?

EPA: CRE supports capacity building projects through grants and technical support to our NEP partners. Not all projects are supported by grants. EPA supports NEP partners by providing technical expertise on some projects.

BE: Please highlight a couple of successful projects and try to illustrate the range of project types.

EPA: CRE projects are mutually defined by EPA and interested NEPs to account for differences in local priorities, geography, and politics. EPA has supported 15 of our 28 NEPs by providing assistance in assessing vulnerability, developing climate change indicators, engaging the public, identifying adaptation options and creating adaptation plans. Below are three CRE projects.

- Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) CRE funded a project in New Hampshire with the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership. PREP conducted a GIS hydrological analysis of their watershed that used climate models to simulate a range of future storms and runoff. PREP is currently working with local governments to evaluate stormwater management and upgrade undersized culverts

- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) CRE helped PDE to examine climate change and its impact on three key resources: tidal wetlands, shellfish, and drinking water. Each resource was the subject of a collaborative analysis and included a vulnerability assessment, the identification of adaptation options, and recommendations.
- Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) CRE helped Charlotte Harbor NEP on projects that have served as regional examples. CHNEP's first project was an assessment of the climate change vulnerabilities that their region is currently facing. This led to the subsequent development of an adaptation plan. Their planning model was adopted by the city of Punta Gorda, and the city's plan later served as a model for Lee County's adaptation planning.

BE: How have you assessed/measured the effectiveness of the program? Have there been any serious problems?

EPA: EPA has produced two CRE Annual Reports to better measure the success of CRE's piloted effort. EPA also hosted two CRE partner workshops to gather feedback from various NEPs on their experiences and lessons learned. EPA is working on exploring ways to engage all 28 NEPs in climate adaptation. To view the CRE Annual reports, please visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/cre/index.html>

BE: Please tell us about the process of collaboration, e.g., lessons learned, suggestions for what to do and/or what not to do.

EPA: The sharing of lessons learned is a major component of the 2009 and 2010 CRE Annual Reports. EPA intends for CRE projects to be examples from which NEPs and other coastal managers can learn. The sharing of lessons learned is an important program aim. Our 2009 CRE Annual Report discusses some of what was learned by our first year partners about getting started and involving the public. Our 2010 CRE Annual Report elaborates on the experience of CRE partners in areas such as vulnerability assessments, indicators and monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and adaptation planning.

BE: Do you have a panel or café session at CZ11? If so, please describe.

EPA: EPA and NOAA are collaborating on a panel at CZ11. Representatives from our partner groups at NOAA along with members of CRE will discuss our cooperation and coordination efforts. In particular, representatives of the

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Barnegat Bay Estuary Program and the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve will also participate on the panel to talk about their successful partnership in New Jersey.

BE: Do you foresee a role for CRE in the National Ocean Plan?

EPA: CRE will continue to focus on preparing our coasts for climate change which is in line with the National Ocean Council. The Council's plan for adapting to climate change calls for assessing the vulnerability of the built and natural environment as well as for designing and implementing adaptation strategies—something CRE will continue to work to achieve.

BE: What engendered this program? What is the ultimate goal of CRE? Where do you see the program in 2021?

EPA: CRE hopes to reach a place where climate is mainstreamed into coastal management. CRE will probably spend much of the next decade supporting vulnerability assessments, helping to incorporate climate change into Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans, offering technical guidance and assistance for planning and implementing adaptation activities, and continuing to work within the federal government on behalf of the NEP and the coastal management community.

Coastal Management Journal

The Society is proud to announce the publication of the first TCS-themed special issue of the Coastal Management Journal. The theme of the special issue is "Making the Connection: Translating Science into Effective Coastal Policy." Guest editors for the issue are Dr. Lawrence Cahoon and Dr. Christopher Dumas, University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Many thanks to Dr. Cahoon, Dr. Dumas, CMJ staff and the TCS members that contributed articles for their dedication to making this special issue a success!

Be Sure to Use Your Members' Link to Read the Articles in this Special Theme Issue:

Adapting to Climate Impacts in California: The Importance of Civic Science in Local Coastal Planning
By Michael Vincent McGinnis & Christina Elizabeth McGinnis

Research and Policy Implications for Watershed Management in the Atlantic Coastal Plain
By Sadie Rain Drescher, Neely Leda Law, Deborah Susan Caraco, Karen Marie Cappiella, Julie Anne Schneider & David J. Hirschman

Coastal Erosion as a Natural Resource Management Problem: An Economic Perspective
By Craig E. Landry

If the Tide is Rising, Who Pays for the Ark?
By Robert H. Cutting, Lawrence B. Cahoon & Jack C. Hall

Using Science to Inform Controversial Issues: A Case Study from the California Ocean Science Trust
By Diana Pietri, Skyli McAfee, Amber Mace, Emily Knight, Liz Rogers & Elizabeth Chornesky

International Environmental NGOs and Conservation Science and Policy: A Case from Brazil
By Jesse G. Hastings

How Research Funding Organizations can Increase Application of Science to Decision-Making
By C. Riley, K. Matso, D. Leonard, J. Stadler, D. Trueblood & R. Langan



A Selection of Panels from the Blue Vision Summit

Offshore Energy—Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow was moderated by Jackie Savitz of Oceana, and included panelists Richard Charter of Defenders of Wildlife; John Amos of Skytruth; and Linda Lance of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. Savitz underscored the importance of America reducing its dependence on fossil fuels and moving away from oil drilling in particular. Mr. Charter spoke of the difficulty of developing a coherent national energy policy that encourages renewable energy when oil drilling has been so much a part of America's fabric. Mr. Charter also discussed the inconsistencies of federal policy that has continued to allow oil companies to bounce back following major disasters. He cited the approval of leases to oil companies to renew deep water drilling—without adequate safety plans in place—in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Senate staffer Linda Lance provided an overview of energy legislation where the focus has been on safety and said that science should say whether to drill or not drill. John Amos discussed the multiple oil disasters that have occurred, which have spilled far more oil than has been reported. He talked about the government's response to these disasters and the challenges for federal agencies to require cleanup technology. Panelists, in general, appeared to be frustrated by the inability of Congress to obtain accurate information from oil companies about spills and current safety standards. The panel session concluded with calls for renewable energy, such as offshore wind and solar, to replace oil as clean energy sources. The panel session was well attended and generated a lot of interest during the question and answer period.

By Sean Dixon (who's bio can be found after the summary Blue Vision Summit article).

The panelists for the **Endangered Water Systems - Infrastructure and Innovation workshop** were a veritable Who's Who of the water systems world: Paul Schwartz, moderator of the panel, is the National Policy Director for the Clean Water Network and expert on drinking-, storm-, and waste-water programs; Ben Grumbles is the President of the Clean Water America Alliance, was the Director of Arizona's Department of Environmental Quality, and was the longest-serving Assistant Administrator for Water at the US EPA; and Casey Dinges is the Managing Director for External Affairs of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and heads the ASCE's highly regarded "Report Card on America's Infrastructure" program.

The panel began with a discussion on the aging water infrastructure and over-used, over-capacity systems found throughout the nation. These systems are causing wide-spread water issues and non-point-source pollution problems - especially from wastewater treatment facilities that cannot treat the water they're sent or handle the quantities they need to; stormwater basins in small towns and counties that take years to clean, repair, and replace; and drinking water pipelines that are almost as porous as the soil they run through.

Panelists touched on the need to highlight the steps that some are taking to counteract this trend. The cities of Los Angeles and New York have already begun implementing plans to address these issues by changing ordinances and zoning laws, investing in infrastructure repair, and turning to natural water system components like rain gardens, trees along streets, and green roofs. Change from within was also discussed. Engineering and urban planning professionals generally recognize the need to slow and reverse the strain placed on these water systems and are incorporating these needs into all plans and projects of all scales. Closing out the audience Q&A, the last word fell to an ocean advocate from the environmental justice community who stressed that, aside from malfunctioning stormwater systems or overtaxed wastewater plants, many Americans live in communities where drinking and wastewater systems were never fully operational and that we need to make access to clean drinking water a priority within our own nation and not just around the world.

By Sean Dixon.



A Selection of Panels from the Blue Vision Summit

Promoting Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Restoration: The conservation community is facing an unprecedented time of declining budgets and political partisanship that could potentially affect the ability to protect and restore ocean and coastal ecosystems. This highly informative workshop brought together a panel of experts that explored an array of options and tools that are available to continue making progress with efforts to protect and restore these important ecosystems.

The workshop moderator was Sean Cosgrove of the Conservation Law Foundation, who introduced the four panelists and provided each an opportunity to make brief opening remarks. The first panelist was Dr. Stephen Crooks (ESA PWA, Ltd) who provided a brief history of the many challenges, and successes, of protecting San Francisco Bay. Dr. Crooks made the point that it is important to recognize that defining the scale and nature of “success” changes over time. Tim Dillingham (Executive Director, American Littoral Society) presented several innovative approaches his organization has used to secure funds to help the restoration of Barnegat Bay in New Jersey. Of particular note was their ability to engage the Bay’s business community in strategy workshops about how the quality of the Bay affects business interests.

Speaking on behalf of the newly-formed National Ocean Council, Teresa Christopher (CEQ) presented several examples of how the National Ocean Policy will be used to coordinate and leverage Federal agency resources to address ecosystem restoration. The final speaker was Dr. Emily Pigeon (Conservation International) who provided an overview of an emerging concept called “Blue Carbon” that relies on the ability of certain marine living resources such as salt marsh, seagrasses, and mangroves to sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gases. Dr. Pigeon made the point that out of all the biological carbon captured in the world, over half is captured by marine living organisms. She concluded by discussing the importance of developing the ability for tidal/coastal wetlands to be eligible for carbon offset markets as new funding mechanism for large-scale restoration projects.

By Jeff Benoit, President of Restore America’s Estuaries and past-president of The Coastal Society.

Ocean Energy—Turning the Tide for Power & the Environment was moderated by Dr. Anna Zivian of the Ocean Conservancy. Panelists included Fara Courtney of the U.S. Offshore Wind Collaboration; Pete Stauffer of Surfrider Foundation; Carolyn Elefant of the Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition; John Ferland of Ocean Energy; and Markian Melnyk of Atlantic Wind Energy.

Ms. Courtney provided an overview of the Cape Wind offshore wind efforts in Massachusetts and discussed the importance of linking ocean management and spatial planning to offshore wind. Ms. Elefant discussed the potential for tidal/wave technology and the regulatory hurdles to moving forward. Mr. Ferland provided a case study of the Maine Tidal Energy Project and suggested that it could be a model for other areas of the country. Markian Melnyk discussed Atlantic Wind Connection’s involvement with establishing the transmission backbone for the smart grid along the Mid-Atlantic coastal region, while Pete Stauffer informed participants about the ocean ecosystem program with which he is involved and which deals with ocean and coastal issues. This panel was particularly exciting as it presented a number of renewable energy development options involving ocean management and spatial planning; important components to developing a successful strategy for protecting the ocean while providing positive alternatives to fossil fuels. Both interesting and informative, the panel was well attended and any one of the topics could have consumed the entire period of time for the panel. With that type of interest, one could recommend that future conferences focus on one or two renewable energy areas rather than discuss multiple options.

By Randolph G. Flood, Executive Director and co-founder of the Green Jobs Alliance, and a former professional staff member of the United States Senate Committee on Environment where he served during the 1970’s when most of our nation’s environmental laws were enacted.



DUKE UNIVERSITY

On March 15, four TCS officers volunteered at “Taste of Coastal Carolina,” a fundraising event hosted by the Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation. Executive chefs from 32 of the area’s leading restaurants unveiled their local specialty dishes at the Foundation’s Eighth Annual Taste event.

RiverWatch, administered by the Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation, has been a successful program in the lower Neuse River basin for years. It is designed to help citizens understand the importance of watching over the waterways and to teach them how to protect the waterways from pollution and other threats. On March 18th, TCS funded 8 members to attend this training, where they learned about river systems, pollution threats, and how to recognize them. The training includes an introduction to relevant federal and state environmental laws, methods for reporting potential threats to water quality and information on how to advocate for safe, healthy water, including communicating with elected officials and the media.

On March 28th, TCS hosted Doug Rader, Chief Ocean Scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) in Durham. He gave a talk entitled, “Lessons from the Macondo: Implications of the BP Oil Disaster for the

Shared Resources of the Gulf of Mexico.” There were 34 people in attendance, a great mix of Master’s degree and PhD students.

For Earth week, we hosted a movie screening of *Addicted to Plastic*, a feature-length documentary about solutions to plastic pollution. In order to help rid ourselves of our own plastic addictions, reusable shopping bags were distributed to all attendees. This event was held at both the Marine Lab in Beaufort, where there were approximately 35 people in attendance, as well as on Duke’s main campus in Durham, in conjunction with other campus Earth Day events, with 15 people in attendance.

We also held monthly Blue Drinks events in Beaufort in March, April and May. The first event was held at the North Carolina Maritime Museum, the second at the Duke Marine Lab and the third at Hannah’s Haus, a local establishment. All three events successfully drew students and faculty from Duke and University of North Carolina, local professionals from NOAA, Division of Marine Fisheries and Division of Coastal Management, and members of the community.

TCS MEMBERS PITCH IN TO RESTORE DUWAMISH RIVER, WASHINGTON STATE

On Saturday April 16, approximately 1,200 volunteers worked to restore Seattle’s hometown river at 13 locations across the Green/Duwamish watershed as part of the Duwamish Alive! event. Hosted by the Duwamish Alive Coalition (a partnership of non-profit organizations, government agencies, community groups, and local businesses), the event served as an opportunity to pull together area TCS members to make a difference in our own backyard.

The North Wind’s Weir site drew 60 volunteers, 16 of which were associated with TCS; University of Washington Chapter members joined up with area practitioners, plus a few friends and family. North Wind’s Weir is a 3.1-acre park located at the zone of salt and freshwater mixing that is especially important to threatened salmon in the watershed. Young salmon coming from higher in the river feed, hide from predators and high-river flows, and get used to salt water in the shallow waters of the site. Volunteers removed invasive vegetation, planted native species, and placed mulch throughout the area to develop



Octopus made out of plastic that was collected in a week in 1 Duke University building. Credit: Caitlyn Zimmerman



habitat that will support salmon.

Thank you to those who made it to the restoration, and especially Elsa Carlisle and Meghan Massaua for their coordination of TCS volunteers for the event. We hope to participate in more projects and to hold more events in the Puget Sound region, so stay tuned!

To get involved in TCS Puget Sound activities, you don't need to be a University of Washington student. Rebekah Padgett, on the TCS Board and a member of the Chapters Committee is coordinating activities. Please contact Rebekah at rpadgett7@gmail.com



UW Members at work. Credit: Elsa Carlisle



University of Washington and TCS National members. Credit: Restore America's Estuaries



2nd International Symposium on Integrated Coastal Zone Management

July 3-7, 2011, Arendal, Norway
www.imr.no/iczm

Coastal Zone 11

Winds of Change: Great Lakes, Great Oceans, Great Communities!

July 17-21, 2011, Chicago, IL
<http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm>

14th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration (ICSR 14)

August 23-27, Stirling, Scotland
www.aqua.stir.ac.uk/shellfish2011

EMECs 9: Managing for Results in our Coastal Seas

August 28-31, 2011, Baltimore, MD
www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/emecs9

CoastGIS 2011

September 5-8, 2011, Ostend, Belgium
<http://www.coastgis.info/>

Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ) Open Science Conference 2011

September 12-15, 2011, Yantai, China
<http://www.loicz-osc2011.org>

Adapting to Coastal Change: Local Perspectives

September 13-15, 2011, The Hague, Netherlands
<http://www.conferencealerts.com/seeconf.mv?q=ca1ih8hi>

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity

September 26-30, 2011, Aberdeen, Scotland
www.marine-biodiversity.org/

American Shore and Beach Preservation Association's National Coastal Conference, Expanding Coastal Horizons

October 19-21, 2012 New Orleans, Louisiana
<http://www.asbpa.org/>

10th International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment - MEDCOAST 11

October 25-29, 2011 Rhodes, Greece
http://www.medcoast.org.tr/MC11/Call_for_Papers_MEDCOAST%2011.pdf

ICE's 7th Conference on Coastal Management

November 15-16, 2011, Belfast, United Kingdom

<http://www.ice-coastalmanagement.com/>

National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment

January 18-20, 2012, Washington, DC
<http://www.environmentandsecurity.org/>

11th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

February 2-4, 2012, San Diego, California
<http://www.newpartners.org/index.html>

Aquaculture America 2012

February 28-March 2, 2012, Las Vegas, NV
http://www.aquaculturepro.com/event.php?event_id=88

Australasian Aquaculture 2012

May 1-4, 2012, Melbourne, Australia
<http://www.australian-aquacultureportal.com/aus-taqua/aa10.html>

World Conference on Water, Climate and Energy

May 13-18, 2012, Dublin, Ireland
<http://iwa-wcedublin.org/>

Global Conference on Oceans, Climate and Security

May 21-23, 2012, Boston, Massachusetts
<http://www.gcocs.org/>

Coastal Zone Canada 2012

June 10-15, 2012, Rimouski, Quebec, Canada
<http://www.cxca-azcc.org/html/conferences/mail.html>

Sustainable Tourism 2012; 5th International Conference

June 13-15, 2012, A Coruna, Spain
www.wessex.ac.uk/12-conferences/sustourism-2012.html

Coast to Coast 2012, Living on the Edge

September 17-21, 2012, Brisbane, Queensland
<http://www.coast2coast.org.au/>

6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration: Restoring Ecosystems, Strengthening Communities

October 20-24, 2012, Tampa, FL
www.estuaries.org/conference



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• Corporate, \$500 US	(company, business, or organization; list four individuals' names and email addresses on form)

Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____ Thank you!

Make check payable to The Coastal Society, and mail it with your application to: PO Box 3590, Williamsburg, VA 23185. To pay by credit card, please use the online application at: www.thecoastalsociety.org/membership2.html.