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Coastal Resources Management Center



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## Coastal eNews and Notes

### **New Report Proposes Guidelines to Manage Nearshore Ecosystems**

A new report published by the Ecological Society of America finds that marine conservation and management strategies need to focus on juveniles and their habitats and move away from mitigation and restoration measures to more "preventive" conservation of seagrass meadows, marshes, oyster reefs, and kelp and mangrove forests. According the report, entitled *The Role of Nearshore Ecosystems as Fish and Shellfish Nurseries*, the management and conservation of nursery and nearshore habitats have lagged behind well established fishery management strategies for adult fishery populations. The report proposes clear guidelines on assessing which coastal areas actually serve as nurseries for commercially important fisheries such as clawed lobster, pink snapper, blue crab, flounder, and brown shrimp. These guidelines include comparison of nursery value among different ecosystems, consideration of juvenile survival and growth, measurement of the movement of juveniles to adult habitats as well as measurement of the size and number of individuals added to adult populations. The report also notes that nursery habitats are managed by multiple agencies and recommends that key U.S. federal marine agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey establish a jointly funded program focused on nursery ecosystem management. Click [here](#) to access the report.

### **U.S. House of Representatives Approves Port Security Funds**

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved \$100 million for the port security grant program along with other funding programs. In addition to the funding for port security, the bill also provides \$4.4 billion for state and local first responders at ports, \$500 million for high-threat, high-density urban ports (\$75 million given to ports out of this fund this year), \$129 million for inspection technologies for vehicles and cargo, \$61.7 million for the Container Security Initiative, \$12.1 million for the Customs-Trade Partnership Against

Terrorism, \$776 million to protect the nation's critical infrastructure, including funds for vulnerability assessments, \$318 million for Customs Automated Commercial Environment and \$2.611 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard.

### **NOAA Establishes Center For Aquatic Invasive Species Research**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently established the National Center for Research on Aquatic Invasive Species to coordinate aquatic invasive species research efforts and to foster partnerships with other agencies, academia, and the private sector. The Center will develop research programs and priorities with representatives from NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the National Ocean Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The new Center is located at NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **EPA Announces Mitigation Guidance For Transportation Projects**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), released guidance clarifying the use of wetland mitigation banks pursuant to mitigation requirements under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century often referred to as "TEA-21." The guidance establishes factors for agency field personnel to consider in determining whether mitigation banking is suitable to compensate for the lost of wetland functions and other aquatic resources from federal-aid highway projects. The guidance also discusses opportunities for early project coordination between the affected agencies and streamlining the environmental impact review process for proposed highway projects. Issuance of the guidance was a high priority action item identified in the National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan adopted by the EPA and ACOE in December of 2002. See January 2003 issue of [eJournal](#) for information on the National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan. Click [here](#) for a a copy of the guidance.

### **NOAA Launches "Clean Marina" Website**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) recently launched their "Clean Marina" website at <http://cleanmarinas.noaa.gov/>. The Clean Marina website is a joint effort by the Coastal Programs Division and Business Management Division of OCRM to provide technical assistance to state coastal managers and marina operators/owners interested in reducing nonpoint source pollution from marinas. The website highlights the Clean Marina Program and provides links to marina "Best Management Practices," brochures, newsletters, and other guidance materials, clean marina funding sources, and state Clean Marina Programs. Clean Marina programs help protect coastal waters from urban runoff and can help states meet the "marina management measure requirements" under the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program. See the December 2002 issue of [eJournal](#) for additional information on clean marinas.

## Clarification

In the June 2003 issue of *eJournal*, the article entitled "Pew Oceans Commission Issues Report" stated that "the oceans span nearly 4.5 million square miles, an area 23% larger than the U.S. land area..." The 4.5 million square miles refers to the approximate area in square statute miles of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone--the area of the oceans over which the United States exercises exclusive environmental and economic jurisdiction.

This is an archive of past issues. As a result, it may contain information that is not current.

The logo for Robinson & Cole LLP is a dark blue horizontal bar with a wavy, torn-edge effect on the right side. The text "ROBINSON & COLE" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, followed by "LLP" in a smaller font size.

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