



Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation® Newsletter

October 2010

Vol. 36, No. 3

President's Greetings

Gulf of Mexico on our Minds...

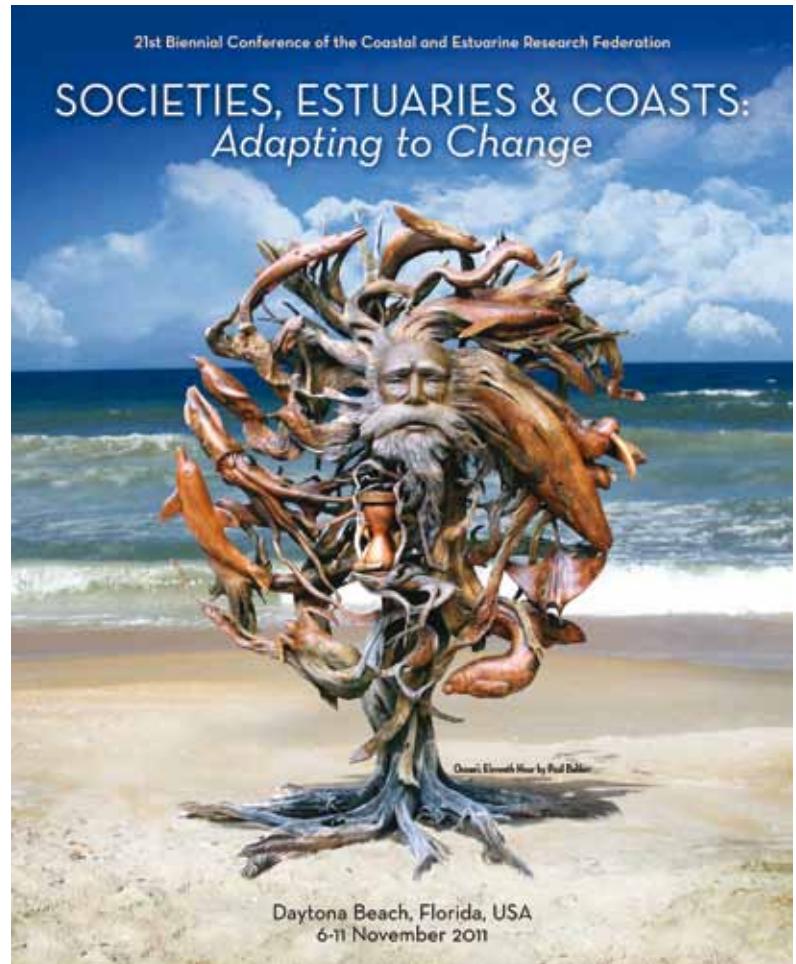
Susan L. Williams, CERF President 2009-2011
slwilliams@ucdavis.edu

It's been difficult for me to pen this note to my CERF colleagues because the Gulf of Mexico oil spill is still so prominent in the minds and lives of our members. CERF's Governing Board has been working on sorting through the myriad issues to come up with something uniquely CERF to add value to the many efforts underway. In September CERF signed on to a letter sponsored by the Ecological Society of America's policy office. Signed by 13 other organizations (including our 'sisters' in the Consortium for Aquatic Science Societies), the letter informs US Senators about the need for an independent funding source for Gulf of Mexico spill research, as well as the need to retain the right of scientists to independent peer-reviewed study. This letter is posted on the CERF web site (http://www.erf.org/system/files/Letter_to_Senate_on_BP_Gulf_Research.pdf); the letter was carefully vetted through CERF's policy action guidelines (<http://www.erf.org/cerf-policy-guidelines-0>).

The CERF 2011 Conference in Daytona Beach will provide an exceptional opportunity for CERF to document scientific and societal effects of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. (Please see the articles by the CERF 2011 Conference Team, throughout this *Newsletter*.) The theme of *Societies, Estuaries, and Coasts*, selected well before the spill, emphasizes
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Strong science, fantastic venue, and exciting wildlife...

CERF 2011 Is Shaping Up

Jim Fourqurean, CERF 2011 Conference co-Chair
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Holly Greening, CERF 2011 Conference co-Chair
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I hope that you all are eagerly anticipating the upcoming CERF 2011 meeting "*Societies, Estuaries and Coasts: Adapting to Change.*" The scientific program committee, headed by **David Rudnick** and **David Yuskowitz**, is working diligently to continue the tradition of strong, disciplinary science sessions, as well as to put emphasis on the nexus of science, social science, management and policy, that will be the key to understanding and adapting to changes on the horizon for the coastal zone. We had a strong response to our calls for special ses-

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CERF *Newsletter* is published by the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation, associated with the following regional societies: Mid-Atlantic (AERS), California (CAERS), Gulf (GERS), Canadian Atlantic (ACCESS), New England (NEERS), Pacific (PERS) and Southeastern (SEERS). *Newsletter* inquiries should be addressed to Joy Bartholomew, Susan Helmrich or Alejandra (Ally) Doughty (see contact information below).

Membership form is enclosed on the inside back cover. Visit the Federation's web site: <http://www.erf.org>

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A Message from the CERF Executive Committee

CERF's Response to GOM Oil Spill

Dear CERF Members,

Each of us has been affected directly or indirectly by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Our Gulf members are hard-pressed to do their routine field work, let alone spill-related sampling, due to demands from the press and compliancy with government regulations. We empathize with their frustration, applaud their efforts, feel intense concern for the affected ecosystems, and want to help, as does the Governing Board.

How to provide an effective CERF response that *adds value*, avoids duplication, and doesn't burden members with notices and suggestions has been difficult to identify. Certainly CERF has resources, particularly experts who can be deployed to inform policy makers, agency heads and the general public in the Gulf region and in DC.

To date, CERF has

- Numerous individual members who are talking to the press, working on NOAA's Spill Advisory Board (including former President Don Boesch), and serving on National Research Council committees (and probably more that we do not know about)
- Posted a spill web site with useful information for members and the public
- Solicited members for volunteer experts to talk to the press and for those who need specific help or equipment, and posted results on spill web site
- Provided a web link to the Ecological Society of America (ESA)'s web site for Gulf of Mexico databases, to avoid duplication of efforts
- Offered NOAA the assistance of our expert members in the affected region in pre-oiling sampling. NOAA could not accept the offer due to chain-of-custody issues (same difficulty associated with post-oiling sampling)
- Worked with CASS, the newly-formed Consortium for Aquatic Scientific Societies, and in turn CASS connected with ESA, to brainstorm specific actions (CASS is just getting its feet on the ground so these efforts not resulted in actions)
- Through *Estuaries & Coasts'* publishers (Springer), provided *Open Access* to articles on oil pollution and the Gulf of Mexico

We want to do the right thing, but picking our message(s) and audience will dictate whether CERF brings added value to the efforts underway. What is our CERF message? Who is the target audience? Do we focus on the challenge of the restoration efforts proposed by President Obama and offer expertise on the resiliency of the ecosystems we know best? Do we convene experts on the science of dispersant use? Do we deploy members to the Gulf to inform the public about the difference between oiled and charismatic pelicans and sea turtles versus the 'Cinderella' organisms in the plankton? Do we address methane hydrates and oxygen depletion and mop up misinformation in the press? What has been your experience trying to work in the spill region and how could it be improved?

Our message to you is that yes we have acted and are contributing to solutions, but we are challenged as a professional society to understand the next steps. As we continue to strategize, the Presidents and Governing Board members want to know your thoughts about CERF's response to the GOM spill. Please use the comment section on the following survey link on the spill web site: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RS7RLHQ>.

Alternatively, send comments to me or Joy Bartholomew (jbarth@erf.org).

Thank you,

Susan Williams
President

Walter Boynton
President Elect

Robert Christian
Past President

JULY 2010

From the CERF Policy Committee...

BP Spill Editorial

Bob Díaz (Policy Committee Chair), diaz@vims.edu

Denise Sanger, denise.sanger@scseagrant.org

Ed Buskey, ed.buskey@mail.utexas.edu

We have heard a lot about the BP spill and conditions in the Gulf of Mexico over the last five months. As our *Newsletter* goes to press, the good news is that the Macondo well is officially 'killed.' The day the Deepwater Horizon sank, taking 11 of its crew to the depths of the Gulf, started the largest oil and gas-related disaster in America's history. From the start there was a need for all sorts of information at Federal to local levels. From the start the science community was poised and willing to provide what information and opinion was requested, but in a fractured way. There was no clearing-house for any authority to go to. The National Incident Command soon organized a number of interagency, expert scientific teams to compile, analyze, and interpret data with review by other nongovernmental and governmental scientists. Members of the media even sooner fanned out all over the US and world looking for 'expert opinions.'

What role should CERF and other scientific societies have played? Individually, CERF members were a crucial part of the response and continue to be engaged in impact assessment. But scientific societies, including CERF, as a whole were not well prepared to respond. Now you can find spill information on CERF's website. Our site and those of other societies now serve as clearing-houses for those looking for information on the spill. Should CERF have been better poised to respond to this disaster? What about the next unknown disaster? What constitutes being prepared, when we do not know the what, where, or when of the next one?

We do think there are lessons learned from the BP spill that will help CERF be prepared for the next environmental crisis:

- Put the best scientists forward to be part of incident command teams. This is particularly important, as decision makers have to get it right the first time. Much confusion and contradiction surrounded some of the National Incident Command statements.
- Put the best communicators forward to explain the complexity of the issues. This is particularly important, as everyone – from politicians to citizens – needs clear and factual information. From press coverage of the BP spill, we heard many misstatements as to why dissolved oxygen was low in some deep areas of the Gulf.
- Be a facilitator of information flow and a source for fact checking.
- Establish ties with other societies to identify common-ground issues and increase collective preparedness.

(For example, the open letter signed by 14 societies and sent to Senators regarding public access to independent scientific assessments; see it at: <http://www.erf.org/gulf-mexico-oil-spill-and-leak-web-resources>.)

Can we roll all of this into a checklist of how to proceed? We think so. The nature of the disaster may be different next time, but the requirements of responders, managers, and society will remain the same. Crisis or no crisis, there is always a need for high quality science assessment, clear and straightforward communication, and free-flow of factual information in a timely manner.

When it comes to estuarine and coastal systems, CERF has it all covered. We just need to organize ourselves, be flexible, and be prepared. From the Town Hall held at the Portland meeting, 11 topics were identified by members as important and requiring follow-up. In order of importance they were: eutrophication, sea level rise, ocean warming, fisheries loss, invasive species, wetland loss, hypoxia, HABs, pollution, estuarine acidification, and coastal engineering. Adding oil spills to the list rounds it to a dozen.

These are important topics to understand and communicate to managers and society in general. The cumulative knowledge of CERF members is the best place to start. For example consider the BP spill; over 20% of our members live and work along the Gulf. They form the backbone of our scientific knowledge base for the Gulf and are the logical jumping off point for starting to address key questions about acute and long-term impacts. Over the next few months, the Policy Committee will be developing a template as to how to proceed with preparing CERF for the future crisis. For now we are planning on a series of white papers and one-page briefing statements. Oil and dispersants will be at the top of the list. If you have any thoughts or input you would like us to consider, please contact us. We will surely be contacting you. ☺☺

GOM Oil Spill Like Herding Cats

Bob Díaz, diaz@vims.edu

On 19 September 2010, *The New York Times* reported in an editorial that NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco has been assigned by the Obama administration to head a study that will help shape a restoration strategy and make sense of the often conflicting "science" behind the gulf oil spill. The article is a timely summary of how fractured the Federal and science response has been to the spill.

To read the editorial, visit www.nytimes.com and search for "Editorial – Science and the Gulf."




Jane Lubchenco
NOAA
Administrator
Photo credit:
NOAA

The more you know...

Open Access to Past Oil-Spill Articles

Springer, the publisher of CERF's peer-reviewed journal, *Estuaries and Coasts*, is providing free access ('Open Access') to the articles published on past oil spills affecting coastal environments, to increase the availability of information relevant to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

To access the articles, visit the CERF website, www.erf.org. Under Latest News, click, *CERF's Estuaries and Coasts provides Open Access to coastal oil pollution articles. 7/19/2010*. Then "click here" where indicated to be directed to the Springer site. 

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2011-2013 GOVERNING BOARD

We invite you to propose the names of colleagues whom you would like to see considered for the future leaders of the Federation.

Self-nominations are also welcome.

Past President **Robert Christian**
(christianr@ecu.edu)

chairs the Nominations Committee and welcomes your suggestions for candidates for

President-Elect, Secretary,
and **two Members-at-Large**
by **28 February 2011**.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Federation expresses deep gratitude to

DR. CARLOS DUARTE

for his service as
Estuaries and Coasts
Co-Editor in Chief

2002-2010

The Federation welcomes

DR. IRIS ANDERSON

DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES, PROFESSOR OF MARINE SCIENCE
VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE
THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY
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Estuaries and Coasts

Co-Editor in Chief

BEGINNING JANUARY 2011

To find out more about the new Co-Editor in Chief, visit http://www.vims.edu/people/anderson_ic/index.php

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE COASTAL AND ESTUARINE
RESEARCH FEDERATION (CERF)
WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
ON

TUESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2010

2:00 PM

DAYTONA BEACH OCEANFRONT HILTON
100 NORTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
DAYTONA BEACH, FL, USA 32118



Coastal and Estuarine Scientific Awards

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

One of the highlights of our 2011 conference will be the conferring of the four
**COASTAL AND
ESTUARINE RESEARCH
FEDERATION AWARDS.**

We invite you to nominate candidates for the following awards:

Odum Lifetime Achievement Award

for a sustained record of important contributions to our understanding of estuaries.

Cronin Award

for an estuarine scientist early in his or her career who has shown greatest promise with early work carried out during the first six years past the Ph.D.

William L. Niering Outstanding Educator Award

for excellence in teaching in estuarine and coastal science.

Donald W. Pritchard Award

for the best physical oceanography paper published in *Estuaries and Coasts* (2009-2010).

Specific instructions regarding the nomination process and the nominations deadline will soon be found on the CERF website (www.erf.org) and also emailed to you.

CERF 2011 Special Poster Session

New Approach to an Old Challenge— Your Ideas Welcome!

Holly Greening, CERF 2011 Conference co-Chair
hgreening@tbep.org

Communicating to decision-makers about estuarine and coastal science findings and current topic status continues to be recognized as an important objective of CERF—and is probably one of the more difficult tasks to implement.

The Conference Core Team is developing an idea, which evolved during discussions with CERF Board members and staff at the Daytona Beach Museum of Arts and Sciences (MOAS). MOAS leaders are enthusiastic about the upcoming CERF conference in Daytona Beach; CERF 2011 will be the largest scientific

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

CERF participants are encouraged to prepare a poster on an important coastal topic (oil spill impacts, hurricanes, marine spatial planning, urbanization, climate change, etc.) or case studies addressing these and other topics of interest to coastal community leaders.

conference the city has hosted. MOAS sees this as an opportunity to promote the role of arts and science in the community. The MOAS membership roster includes many local decision-makers and successful business leaders, who actively support the arts and sciences in the Daytona Beach area. They are interested in partnering with CERF 2011 to create an event that engages their membership and our scientists in a meaningful and enjoyable way. The Director and Curator of MOAS also believe that their members would be interested in being invited “inside” the conference and in interacting with CERF’s scientists and managers as they work.

Our concept is to convene a special poster session, in conjunction with a scheduled evening poster/social event, entitled, “*Science for Community Leaders.*” The MOAS membership will be invited to attend and talk with our conference attendees in an informal social setting, which will be contained within the main poster hall. Invitations will also be sent to other local and regional leaders (nearby National Estuarine Research Reserve directors, National Seashore director, Florida Water Management officials, college presidents, etc.). The invitees would be initially welcomed at the special poster area, and would be encouraged to view posters throughout the poster hall and to talk to all of the presenters available that evening.

Both invited and contributed posters will be included—and this is where we need your help! We will be encouraging CERF participants to prepare a poster on an important coastal topic (oil spill impacts, hurricanes, marine spatial planning, urbanization, climate change, etc.) or case studies addressing these and other topics of interest to coastal community leaders.

For this special poster session, the CERF Conference Team will waive the ban on being the primary author on only one presentation; the abstract fee for this poster session will also be waived. We will also be providing guidance on poster presentations for the public (more pictures and graphics, fewer words).

If you are interested in providing input and/or submitting an abstract for a poster in this special session, please contact CERF 2011 Co-Chair **Holly Greening** at hgreening@tbep.org. We welcome your ideas and comments—and look forward to a lively new venue for communicating coastal and estuarine science to local decision-makers.

Bridging Environmental and Human Dimensions

Can CERF Help Find Solutions?

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There is little doubt that we have a love affair with our coasts, to the point that already stressed ecosystems and infrastructure will become more so, even without considering the potential impacts of climate change. In 2000, the estimated world population was 5.7 billion, with 2.3 billion living within 100km of the coast. While it is expected that the proportion of the population (40%) living along the coast will not change over the next fifteen years, there will be 600 million more people in this traditionally sensitive area as world population climbs to 7.4 billion by 2025.¹ That is equivalent to dropping the population of two United States' into the world's coastal zone. Of greater concern are the low elevation coastal zones (10 meters or less), which are 2% of the world's land area and contain 10% of the global population. More dramatic is the fact that developing countries have a higher share of their population (14%) in this zone than developed countries (10%).² In the U.S., coastal counties account for almost one-third of the population. The dramatic increase in coastal population for the Gulf of Mexico between 1960 and 2008 was 150%. In that same time period, coastal population grew 110% in the Pacific coast.³ The impact of future population growth will have a disproportionate impact on the environment as lower quality resources are utilized,⁴ and our coast will bear an unusually large part of the environmental degradation.

Our coasts are headed for a ship wreck, and it is critical that decision makers in both the private and public sectors take into account all the benefits and costs in order that those decisions are effective. Environmental decision-making

cannot be the domain of one discipline and still be effective. Those decisions must be supported by not only the natural sciences but social/cultural considerations, political realities and economic science. Right or wrong, a number of

decisions that impact our environment are based on their monetary costs and benefits. It is critical that the socio-economic values of our coastal resources are accounted for when decisions are being made.

The Deepwater Horizon blowout highlights concerns about what may happen to our coastal and marine ecosystems and how those changes can affect us. This unfortunate event provides an opportunity to once again bring to light the critically important interconnectedness between the well-being of the natural environment and human well-being. The traditional market economy impacts were the focus shortly after the beginning of the event, and included primarily the commercial fishing and tourism industries. At its peak, 36% of Gulf of Mexico federal waters were closed to commercial fishing.⁵ This sector alone supported around 176,000 jobs in 2008.⁶ Tourism, on the Gulf coast, sustains over 400,000 jobs, with visitor spending reaching \$34 billion (2008).⁷

At least as important to our well-being are the non-traditional goods and services we have come to rely upon without formally recognizing them. Early on after the blowout had begun, it was estimated that the value of the goods and services provided by coastal marsh only, which may have been potentially impacted by oil, was \$1.2 billion a year.⁸ It has been calculated that the greater Mississippi River Delta ecosystems may provide in the range of \$12-47 billion annually in benefits to people, including storm and flood protection, water supply and quality, and recreation and fisheries.⁹ To provide perspective, the gross domestic product for the State of Louisiana was \$222 billion in 2008.¹⁰ The most conservative number from above (\$12 billion) would make the services provided equal to 5% of the state's economy, equivalent to its health care and social assistance industry.

There has been a major shift over the last two decades of how we look at ourselves in relation to the environment. To a greater degree we understand that humans are part of the surrounding ecosystem and not separate from it and therefore have an increased sense of responsibility. Given its mandate, what role can CERF play in bridging the environmental and human dimensions? With CERF 2011, the board has made the conscience decision to begin to incorporate the social and policy sciences into not only the program but also the Federation at large. The momentum that is building must continue beyond the next biennial meeting. The Federation, given its diverse current and future membership, has the opportunity to elevate not just the academic practice of multidisciplinary research but the application of that work to make more effective policy.

One way to do this is for CERF and its members to engage more directly with coastal stakeholders. Sponsoring workshops and short courses aimed at solving real-world problems can go a long way in this direction. These solutions-focused events can occur both in conjunction with the biennial meeting and at other times. It is also

continued on page 25

Credit: Santos and Yoskowitz



Thank you to the CERF 2011 SPONSORS

The Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation is grateful to the following sponsors and contributors who have stepped forward to support the CERF 2011 biennial conference:

EPA, OWOW, Coastal Management Branch

PBS&J

Tampa Bay Estuary Program

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**Florida International University**

**South Florida Water Management District**

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## WE'RE WARMING UP FOR CERF 2011!

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**Jim Fourqurean**, Florida International University

**Holly Greening**, Tampa Bay Estuary Program

### *Scientific Program*

**Dave Rudnick**, South Florida Water Management District

**David Yoskowitz**, Texas A&M–Corpus Christi

**Linda Walters**, University of Central Florida

**Ocean Center at Daytona Beach**

**6-11 November 2011**

**Daytona Beach, Florida USA**

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for Best Presentations

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Offsite, No Work, Just Fun!

More information  
at **www.erf.org**  
on the conference web site

# SAVE THE DATES!

21st Biennial Conference of the  
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation

## CERF 2011

SOCIETIES, ESTUARIES  
AND COASTS:  
ADAPTING TO CHANGE

Daytona Beach, Florida, USA

6-11 November 2011

ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL OPENS  
JANUARY 2011

ABSTRACT DEADLINE  
20 MAY 2011

For more information, go to the  
CERF website [www.erf.org](http://www.erf.org) or contact:

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**Linda Walters**, Poster Chair  
[ljwalter@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:ljwalter@mail.ucf.edu)



*TOP LEFT: Having a good time frolicking in the Halifax River near Daytona Beach! Photo credit: Christy Yates, Gannett Fleming, contracted to SJRWMD.*

*MIDDLE: Lauren Hall, Environmental Scientist (SJRWMD), discovers a beautiful nine-armed starfish while monitoring seagrasses in the Indian River Lagoon. Volusia County Marine Science Center ([Marinesciencecenter.com](http://Marinesciencecenter.com)).*

*LEFT: One of the main goals of the Marine Science Center is sea turtle rehabilitation. Guests can overlook seven turtle hospital pools from the Turtle Terrace. These pools house sick and injured sea turtles, hatchlings, and washbacks under rehabilitation. The rehabilitating hatchlings, wash backs (newly hatched baby sea turtles that are washed back to shore by rough seas) and sea turtles are released upon full recovery.*

# CERF 2011 CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
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|                                              | Holly Greening                                                                                                                                                  | Tampa Bay Estuary Program                           |
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| Co-Chair                                     | David Yoskowitz                                                                                                                                                 | Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies |
| Poster Chair                                 | Linda Walters                                                                                                                                                   | University of Central Florida                       |
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| International Issues                         | Nuria Marba                                                                                                                                                     | IMEDEA, Institut Mediterrani d'Estudis Avançats     |
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| Workshops                                    | Ruth Carmichael                                                                                                                                                 | Dauphin Island Sea Lab                              |
| Abstract Database Manager                    | Sue Chalifoux                                                                                                                                                   | New Hampshire Sea Grant                             |
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|                                              | Lori Morris                                                                                                                                                     | St. John's River Water Management District          |
|                                              | Ron Brockmeyer                                                                                                                                                  | St. John's River Water Management District          |
| <b>Communications/Publicity</b>              |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
|                                              | Karl Haven                                                                                                                                                      | Florida Sea Grant and University of Florida         |
| Facebook Page                                | Leanna Heffner                                                                                                                                                  | University of Rhode Island                          |
| <b>Social Events</b>                         |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
|                                              | TBD – Volunteers Welcome!                                                                                                                                       |                                                     |
| <b>Regional Fundraising</b>                  |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
|                                              | Jay Ziemann                                                                                                                                                     | University of Virginia                              |
| <b>Student Activities</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
| Chair                                        | Amanda Kahn                                                                                                                                                     | University of North Florida                         |
| Student Career Event                         | Leanna Heffner                                                                                                                                                  | University of Rhode Island                          |
| Student Travel Awards                        | Paul Carlson                                                                                                                                                    | Florida Marine Research Institute                   |
| Student Presentation Judging/Awards          | SEERS                                                                                                                                                           | Southeast Estuarine Research Society                |
| REU Grant                                    | Antonio Baptista                                                                                                                                                | Oregon Health & Science University                  |
|                                              | Randy Chambers                                                                                                                                                  | College of William and Mary                         |
| <b>Conference Oversight</b>                  |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
|                                              | Joy Bartholomew                                                                                                                                                 | CERF HQ                                             |
|                                              | Alejandra Doughty                                                                                                                                               | CERF HQ                                             |
| Webmaster                                    | Chris Schneider                                                                                                                                                 | The Schneider Group                                 |
| Administration                               | Helen Schneider-Lemay                                                                                                                                           | The Schneider Group                                 |
| <b>Conference Committee Advisory</b>         |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
|                                              | Bob Chamberlain                                                                                                                                                 | St. John's River Water Management District          |
|                                              | Debra Woodall                                                                                                                                                   | Daytona State College                               |
| <b>Blue Ribbon Panel</b>                     |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
|                                              | Chris D'Elia, Dean, School of Coast and Environment, LSU                                                                                                        |                                                     |
|                                              | Karl Haven, Director, Florida Sea Grant                                                                                                                         |                                                     |
|                                              | Mike Heithaus, Director, School of Environment and Society, Florida International University                                                                    |                                                     |
| <b>Scientific Program Advisory Committee</b> |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
|                                              | Susan Bell • Joe Boyer • Daniel Conley • Peter Doering • Carlos Duarte • Ernie Estevez<br>Bob Howarth • Chris Madden • Walt Nelson • Fred Sklar • Quinton White |                                                     |

# CERF 2011 Is Shaping Up

*continued from page 1*

sions proposals, and the meeting leadership team will be working over the next few weeks to meld these session proposals into a coherent and exciting scientific program. We are also working on ways to improve the flow of information from the scientists and managers, who make up the membership of CERF, to policymakers. We are particularly excited about a new initiative called "Science for Community Leaders," in which we will bring together local and regional policymakers with CERF members around a special poster session designed to educate these policymakers about the science and consequences of changes in the coastal environment.

The venue for the meeting looks fantastic! The Ocean Center at Daytona Beach is a perfectly sized conference center for a CERF meeting: it is large enough to accompany the expected 1500+ attendees for the meeting but not so huge that we feel lost in the facility. The session rooms, poster/exhibit area, and special purpose rooms are ideally suited for a meeting like ours. Plus, the location is hard to beat – it is directly across the street from Daytona Beach, one of the premier surfing beaches along the Atlantic Coast. Restaurants, pubs, and shopping nearby – along with the beach itself – will provide plenty of opportunity for distraction when you have absorbed all of the coastal science, management, and policy information you can for the day.

Local coastal and estuarine scientists are pitching in to provide a feel for the environments and culture of the area. Our field trip team is putting together a diverse set of pre-meeting excursions to local coastal ecosystems. November is a great time to be outdoors in central Florida; and there will be plenty of opportunities to get out into the diverse coastal environments to bird watch, spot wildlife, and learn about environments you have only read about. We have also

called on local expertise on wildlife of a different sort to work on evening entertainment at the meeting.

For those of you wondering what to expect from the weather in Daytona Beach in November, the answer is, if climatology is a good guide, delightful! The average daytime high in November is 75°F (24°C for our international attendees) with nighttime lows of 56°F (13.5°C). The sun shines at least 2/3 of the days of the month, on average, with rain falling only

seven days of the month. This means it will be pleasant walking around and enjoying all that the area has to offer.

From our perspective, the CERF 2011 meeting in Daytona Beach looks like it will extend the long list of scientifically enriching, professionally important, and personally relaxing CERF meeting of the past. Please hold the dates, 6-11 November 2011; and we look forward to seeing old colleagues and making new ones on the beach in Daytona! 🇺🇸

Are you a coastal manager  
with too much to do  
and too little time?

## Coastal and Estuarine Science News – CESN

*Where coastal managers stay on the leading edge*

Coastal and Estuarine Science News (CESN) is an electronic newsletter that provides brief summaries from the journal, *Estuaries and Coasts*.

Articles are chosen specifically to give you:

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- A link between science and management in coastal systems.
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*CESN is an electronic publication of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation*

# AFFILIATE SOCIETY NEWS



## News

Denise Sanger, SEERS President  
[Denise.Sanger@scseagrant.org](mailto:Denise.Sanger@scseagrant.org)

It continues to be a time of change for the Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (SEERS). Not only do we have a new website ([host.coastal.edu/seers/](http://host.coastal.edu/seers/)) but we also have a new logo for SEERS. We are leaving the 70s behind and moving into the future. We have some very creative and imaginative SEERS members, which made the logo contest decision difficult. The winning logo was designed by **Sylvia Schaefer**, a graduate student from the University of Georgia; Sylvia's design used symbols from the Integration and Application Network ([ian.umces.edu/symbols/](http://ian.umces.edu/symbols/)), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Thanks to those who entered designs for the competition, including Dix.Lathrop and Associates (<http://dixlathrop.com>).

The SEERS Fall 2010 meeting will be held 4-6 November in St. Augustine, Florida, at the City of St. Augustine's Government House. The meeting will kick-off on Thursday evening with a poster session and social, followed by presentations Friday (all day) and Saturday (morning). There will be a special session in honor of **Peter Verity**; the guest speaker, **Marc E. Frischer** of Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, will present, "Plankton Ecology: The Legacy of Peter Verity." The Friday evening banquet will be held on an historic pirate ship. (Pirate attire is optional.) The local hosts are **Lori Morris** and **Sandra Fox** from St. Johns River Water Management District and **Clay Montague** from the University of Florida. Please go to our website for additional information.

Finally, we would like to welcome **Dave Eggleston** from North Carolina State University as our new Member-at-Large. 🍷



## GERS News

Ed Buskey, GERS President  
[ed.buskey@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:ed.buskey@mail.utexas.edu)

### Gulf Estuarine Research Society Meeting in Port Aransas, Texas

It's been a busy summer on the Gulf Coast! The northern Gulf Coast was directly impacted by oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, that began in late April and has kept all our members in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida panhandle extremely busy. Those portions of the coast not affected by the oil directly were involved in a lot of planning, training and meetings for dealing with oil. Here on the Texas coast, we've had a couple of brushes with hurricanes and tropical storms, with Alex visiting in early summer and a recent surprise visit from Hermine. It must be time for relaxing and sharing some science in a laid-back, little town on the Texas Coast! Why don't y'all plan to come and visit us in Port "A" for the GERS meeting on 3-4 November at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute?

That's right; the Gulf Estuarine Research Society will be holding its biennial meeting in Port Aransas during the first week of November. We

invite abstracts for both oral presentations and posters. Any preliminary data from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is of special interest. Abstracts can be submitted during registration at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WX6SFN2> (preferred) or e-mailed to [GERS2010@googlegroups.com](mailto:GERS2010@googlegroups.com)

Awards will be presented for best student papers, and several student travel awards will also be available. We have low-cost housing available, with basic dorm rooms on campus for students and discounted blocks of hotel rooms. We will have a poster session with refreshments on Wednesday night, 3 November, followed by a dinner and time to relax. The poster session and evening social event will be held at the Port Aransas Community Center, next door to the Port Aransas Museum. The Museum is operated by the Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association, which is celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Port Aransas. Tours of our new Wetlands Education Center at the Marine Science Institute will also be available. For more information on the meeting, please visit our website: <https://webspace.utexas.edu/rfm396/GBERS%202010/GERS2010.htm>

Registration for the meeting is only \$50. You can register at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WX6SFN2>

We look forward to getting together with old friends from across the Gulf Coast and making some new friends, too, at the Biennial Gulf Estuarine Research Society meeting. 🍷

### Upcoming Affiliate Society Meetings

| Society | Dates              | Location                                                        |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACCESS  | May 2011           | St. Francis Xavier, Antigonish, Nova Scotia                     |
| AERS    | 4-6 November 2010  | Hilton Garden Inn, Kitty Hawk, NC                               |
| CAERS   | Spring 2011        | TBD                                                             |
| GERS    | 3-5 November 2010  | University of Texas Marine Sciences Institute, Port Aransas, TX |
| NEERS   | 28-30 October 2010 | Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown, MA       |
| PERS    | 4-6 March 2011     | Liberty Theater, Astoria, OR                                    |
| SEERS   | 4-6 November 2010  | City of St. Augustine Government House, St. Augustine, FL       |

For detailed information, please check the Affiliate Societies' websites via [www.erf.org](http://www.erf.org). Choose the "Affiliates" heading near the top of the home page.

# AFFILIATE SOCIETY NEWS



## News

Pete Straub, AERS President  
Peter.Straub@stockton.edu

### Fall 2010 Meeting to be Held in Kitty Hawk, NC

The Fall 2010 AERS meeting will be held 4-6 November at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kitty Hawk, NC, on the beautiful northern outer banks. The meeting is being hosted by **Joe Luczkovich** of East Carolina University (ECU) and sponsored by CERF; YSI; The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey; and several units of East Carolina University, including the Department of Biology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, and Institute for Coastal Science and Policy. The ECU Coastal Resources Management PhD program, ECU Chapter of the Coastal Society, and UNC Coastal Studies Institute are providing support for meeting logistics.

The meeting will kick off with an opening social on Thursday night on the Kitty Hawk pier. Friday morning will begin with a keynote panel entitled, "*Lessons from the Gulf: the role of the coastal scientist when disaster strikes.*" The keynote panel will include presentations from a distinguished group of scientists, who are based in the Gulf and in the AERS region and are cur-


rently involved in the Gulf disaster. The panel includes: Drs. **William Boicourt** (UMCES), **Robert Diaz** (VIMS), **David Kimmel** (ECU), **Janis Kurtz** (EPA-Gulf Breeze), **Siddhartha Mitra** (ECU), and **Robert Twilley** (LSU). The panel will then convene as a group and take audience questions on response, planning and recovery strategies scientists can pursue in the event of local ecological catastrophes. Contributed talks on a range of topics in coastal and estuarine science will take place following the panel on Friday and continue through lunch on Saturday, with a poster session and banquet Friday evening.

Pre-registration and abstract submittal is now open online at [www.aers.info](http://www.aers.info). Click *Meetings* and then *Fall 2010*. The deadline is 8 October. This is also the deadline to apply for student travel awards (see the website for details). The website also has links for making hotel reservations and will be updated in the weeks to come with more information, including the final conference program and field trips. This meeting is being coordinated by the AERS Program Committee, which includes **Mark Brush**, **Juliette Giordano**, and **Jeremy Testa**.

Preliminary plans have been made to hold the Spring 2011 AERS meeting at Solomons Island, MD, in April. **Chris Heyer**, AERS webmaster, is developing this proposed meeting with a crack team of assistants. The planned theme is "down home on the bay." Thanks to all the CERFers who remember to pay your AERS dues when renewing your CERF membership. If you need to update your



AERS past-President **Leila Hamdan** enjoys her retirement present, a Chesapeake Bay cruise with her husband **Bill** (not shown) on the sailing vessel "Nimble" under the watchful eyes of longtime AERS historian, Captain **Kent Mountford**. Thanks, Kent, for your generous gift; and thanks, Leila, for your outstanding leadership! Photo credit: **Leila Hamdan**

AERS membership information, sign up for the AERS listserve or pay your renewal dues directly (via paypal); please see the website [www.aers.info](http://www.aers.info). AERS needs you and appreciates your support and membership. 

## President's Greetings

*continued from page 1*


our intimate relationship to estuaries and coasts and explicitly includes humans in these ecosystems. This theme also encompasses the important topics outlined in President Obama's National Ocean Policy, put into place by an Executive Order in July 2010. Among the national initiatives are ecosystem-based management and Marine Spatial Planning, along with ocean science education and observing/monitoring systems. The National Ocean Policy document

can be viewed from the CERF web site (<http://www.erf.org/news/president-obamas-national-ocean-policy>).

Closer to home, CERF has been working on a strategic and business succession plan, which is strongly recommended for all not-for-profit organizations if they are to evolve in healthy ways in response to changing times. We are still in the thick of the analyses prerequisite to informed planning, but expect to have much of the work completed by summer 2011. CERF has been doing well despite the recession – with successful conferences and our journal, *Estuaries and Coasts* – but there are trends across all

scientific societies that merit attention. These trends include the loss of baby boomer members, the recruitment of young scientists, the proliferation of electronic information, and the growing need for sound science for informed decision making.

Please start planning to attend CERF 2011 and let the conference committee members, Joy Bartholomew, and me know your thoughts and desires to make the conference another huge success.

And...keep those updates about the Gulf of Mexico spill coming in. They are critical for guiding us to bring added value to the response effort. 

# AFFILIATE SOCIETY NEWS

CAERS  
CALIFORNIA ESTUARINE  
RESEARCH SOCIETY

## News

### Research Highlights from Members of CAERS

The CAERS contribution to the October CERF *Newsletter* features the research of four young investigators in southern California. Future contributions from other locals are welcome!

#### Rachel Kennison, PhD

UCLA, [rlk@ucla.edu](mailto:rlk@ucla.edu)

The central focus of my research is to evaluate ecosystem function in southern California estuaries. In five estuaries spanning the coast from Santa Barbara to Tijuana River, macroalgal blooms were as large as 3000 g wet wt m<sup>-2</sup> and column nitrate concentrations >2500 μM NO<sub>3</sub> in one system. Perhaps most significantly, results indicated that the key function of biogeochemical cycling was missing for all estuaries in the dry season, and two of the five in the wet season. Lack of this function may be attributed to highly enriched eutrophic conditions from anthropogenic sources



LAURI GREEN

of nutrients induced by a suite of physical modifications unique to each system. In these highly eutrophic systems, water column and sediment N availability no longer related to macroalgal biomass, possibly due to saturation of biotic capacity to process N, hydrological processes or N toxicity. Finally, when the function of nutrient cycling was missing, it appears these systems were acting as nutrient conduits, potentially altering the nutrient supply to the coastal ocean waters.

My next step is to investigate whether nutrient function has been lost, or simply never occurred in these systems. My approach will be an historical analysis of these estuaries. In order for managers to make informed decisions to retain invaluable ecosystem services provided by estuaries in southern California, and protect downstream effects of missing estuarine filtering capacities, it is important to not only look to nutrient enrichment and reduction. They must also consider secondary feedback mechanisms, habitat availability for nutrient processing and both the historic context and current condition of hydrodynamic processes within each estuary.

#### Lauri Green, PhD student

UCLA, [cnidaria@ucla.edu](mailto:cnidaria@ucla.edu)

I have been working to develop a macroalgal assessment framework (MAF) for eutrophication. Since many species of macroalgae respond quickly to nutrient loading, the aim of the MAF is to determine if macroalgal abundance can be used as a biological indicator of eutrophication in estuaries. We are developing rapid assessment techniques for percent cover of macroalgae, biomass, macroalgal thickness and sediment oxygen availability. Our goal is for these techniques to be used by field workers to monitor macroalgal abundance and take steps to determine if their system is negatively affected by nutrient loading. Early analysis of data for Mugu and San Elijo lagoons showed that mudflats with macroalgal



RACHEL KENNISON

# AFFILIATE SOCIETY NEWS



SARAH BRYSON

cover had lower sediment oxygen than mudflats not covered by macroalgae. Low sediment oxygen negatively affects important species of invertebrates and vertebrates that use estuaries for foraging and breeding.

## Sarah Bryson, PhD student

UCLA, [sbryson@ucla.edu](mailto:sbryson@ucla.edu)

While research indicates that ecological interactions tend to become positive in stressful conditions, little research has addressed how these interactions shift in extremely stressful conditions. Because of the Mediterranean climate, with little rain outside of the winter season, salinities are extremely high in southern California marshes. The upper marsh region consist of two distinct habitats – the more moderately stressed vegetated marsh and the extreme condition of bare salt pannes. While soil salinities are hypersaline in the vegetated marsh, ( $\approx 40\text{-}50$  ppt), soil salinities in the pannes are 7X higher ( $\approx 300$  ppt), which excludes almost all vegetation. Little is known how interactions between the plant species of the marsh vegetation are affected by this extreme stress. Using experimental manipulations in both the pannes and the marsh, including treatments with *Batis* present and excluded, I found support for the hypothesis that *Batis* facilitates vegetation in the marsh, but does not promote vegetation growth into the salt pannes. In fact, the presence of *Batis* inhibits colonization of marsh vegetation into the pannes. This demonstrates

that a positive interaction in a stressful environment became a negative interaction under extremely stressful conditions. In the future I plan to address how interactions change in other extremely stressful habitats. In light of global climate change, communities are expected to experience harsher environmental conditions; and understanding how the community interactions may change under such conditions will be important for conservation efforts.

## Tonya Kane, PhD student

[tkane@eeb.ucla.edu](mailto:tkane@eeb.ucla.edu)

Understanding all components of nutrient cycling is critical, especially as coastal eutrophication and other anthropogenic influences continue to increase in southern California's unique and heavily impacted estuarine systems. However, very little has been studied in the area of estuarine nitrogen biogeochemistry in southern California; and prior to this research, no studies measured sediment denitrification. I have utilized observational and experimental approaches to investigate sediment nitrogen fixation and denitrification rates in intertidal mudflats in Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve in Orange County and in five San Diego County estuaries. I found all of these estuarine systems had low levels of nitrogen fixation year-round, with the highest rates following a large precipitation event. Denitrification activity occurred during high-tide conditions at most locations, and the denitrifying population responded rapidly to water column nitrogen inputs. This research is providing much needed information on how these processes could affect water and habitat quality, and can be incorporated into models used to set Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) restrictions. Many questions remain regarding biogeochemical nitrogen cycling in these estuaries, and how they compare to other well-studied systems. 🌊



TONYA KANE

# AFFILIATE SOCIETY NEWS



News

Martha Jones, ACCESS President,  
martha.jones@cbu.ca

Stephen Hale, NEERS President-Elect,  
hale.stephen@epa.gov

## Joint ACCESS and NEERS meeting in St. Andrews – a lot of fun!

We are pleased to report the success of the first joint meeting of ACCESS/NEERS since ACCESS split off from NEERS in 2003. The meeting was held in scenic St. Andrews, New Brunswick, 13-16 May. Prior to the split, NEERS had held four meetings in the maritime provinces of Canada. Ironically, the Spring 2010 meeting location, St. Andrews, was founded by New England loyalists fleeing the American Revolution, when America split off from Great Britain. We're pleased to report that no NEERS members defected during our meeting.

Topics included under the meeting theme (Trans-boundary Issues) covered such diverse areas as climate change, renewable energy, invasive species, and seagrass ecology. Three highlights for the



meeting included: the comfortable conference size (102 registrants) that allowed for collegial mixing during the social events; exceptional participation by graduate and undergraduate students; and the lovely, relaxing location of St. Andrews in early spring. The large tidal range visible out the windows of the waterfront hotels where many of us stayed delighted NEERS and ACCESS attendees, alike. The organized social events were great fun, although at the Red Herring Pub, NEERS (led by NEERS Party Whip **Hilary Neckles**) definitely out-danced ACCESS participants (who were more interested in the hockey game on TV). ACCESS is going to take dance lessons in preparation for the next joint meeting!

The conference was diverse in both geographical representation (New York to Montreal to Newfoundland), and the scientific topics covered. Many participants remarked that a bonus of the scientific program was the "newness" of the other society's talks. (For example, ACCESS has several organismal ecologists and taxonomists who present talks

on fish parasitology or taxonomic inventories, whereas these kinds of researchers in the NEERS area are more likely to attend meetings of other organizations).

**Gail Chmura**, McGill University, and **Paula Noel** led an informative and interesting field trip of Dipper Harbour marsh at Point Lepreau, NB, and Saints Rest marsh in Saint John, NB. Once again, NEERSians were impressed by the huge tidal range.

One of the greatest successes of the conference was the number and quality of student oral and poster contributions – 21 oral presentations and 15 posters by students. It was an incredible showing by the students and made judging (coordinated by **Robert Buchsbaum** and **Martha Jones**) difficult; the ACCESS executive committee agreed it was the strongest showing by students in the history of ACCESS meetings. Congratulations to all of the student participants!

*continued on page 18*



**TOP RIGHT:** Past NEERS Webmaster **Ron Rozsa** receives a gift of appreciation from NEERS President **Pam Morgan**. Photo credit: **R. Buchsbaum**. **ABOVE, LEFT:** Field trip leader, **Gail Chmura**, McGill University (center), describes plant communities in Dipper Harbour marsh on Point Lepreau, NB, that serves as a reference site for examination of marsh recovery in the lower Bay of Fundy Trip. Participants also visited Saints Rest marsh in Saint John, NB. Photo credit: **S. Hale**. **ABOVE, RIGHT:** **Walter Boynton**, CERF President-Elect, draws a name from **Hilary Neckles**, for the prize winners of the Poster Trivia contest at the evening banquet. Photo credit: **M. Jones**.



Steven Rumrill, PERS President  
 Steve.Rumrill@state.or.us

## Pencil in the Date for PERS 2011

Rainfall and snowmelt are collected annually by the 260,000 sq mile Columbia River watershed, that encompasses seven US states (Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon) and one Canadian Province (British Columbia). The Columbia River Basin traverses a high plateau and cuts through steep gorges and canyons, where the numerous rivers and tributaries are checked by a series of dams and reservoirs. The tidal waters are then released through the lower Columbia River estuary, where they flow past Cape Disappointment and are discharged into the nearshore Pacific Ocean in the form of an expansive estuarine plume that can extend for over one hundred miles along the outer coastlines of Washington and Oregon.

The spectacular mouth of the Columbia River Estuary will be the setting for the next Annual Meeting of the Pacific Estuarine Research Society. The next PERS conference is currently scheduled for 4-6 March 2011, and our presentations and

discussions will occur within the regal setting of the newly-renovated Liberty Theater, in Astoria, OR. Local hosts **Curtis Roegner** (NOAA/NMFS) and **Matt Hunter** (ODFW) will work together with the PERS Executive Board to ensure that the 2011 PERS Conference is instructive, entertaining, and provocative. Pencil in the date!

## Unusual La Niña Summer Season for Pacific Northwest Estuaries

The late spring and summer of 2010 was marked by the transition from a moderately strong El Niño (warmer than average) to La Niña (cooler than average) ocean conditions, and the La Niña conditions persisted throughout the summer and into the fall. Consequently, the Pacific Northwest estuaries experienced an extended period of strong winds, cooler temperatures, and coastal fog. Harmful Algal Blooms and domoic acid levels in shellfish were generally low along the outer Washington coast, but they exceeded alert levels for razor clams along the southern Oregon coast. The counts of spring Chinook salmon at the Bonneville Dam (Columbia River) were the third highest in history. Conditions in the estuaries, however, were unusual and included high counts of fecal indicator bacteria (Oregon), build-ups of macrobenthic drift algae (Oregon and Washington), and dangerously hypoxic waters in Hood Canal (Puget Sound).

## Regional Meetings and Workshops

Estuarine and marine scientists from throughout the Pacific coast recently par-



*Natural recruitment of native Olympia oysters (Ostrea lurida) on the shell of a non-native Pacific oyster (Crassostrea gigas).*

ticipated in several important regional meetings, workshops, and conferences. The West Coast Ocean Acidification Shellfish Workshop was held 7-8 July 2010 (Costa Mesa, CA); and discussions were held among the 51 invited participants and representatives from the Sea Grant Programs in Washington, Oregon, and California. The workshop participants reviewed existing research, identified information gaps, and proposed potential solutions to ocean acidification problems faced by shellfish hatcheries, growers, and harvesters.

The West Coast Native Olympia Oyster Restoration Workshop was held 16-17 September 2010 in Poulsbo, WA. The workshop was co-hosted by the Puget Sound Restoration Fund, The Nature Conservancy, the NOAA Restoration Center, and the Suquamish Tribe; and the presentations and discussions were held within the Suquamish Tribal Center, located on the shoreline of the Kitsap Peninsula. The purpose of the workshop was to: (1) share

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**LEFT:** Staff from the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve worked with members of the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps to deploy 200 bags of Olympia oysters in the lower intertidal zone.

**RIGHT:** Bags of Olympia oyster cultch are transported by a small skiff for deployment within the South Slough Estuary, Oregon.

Photo credit, all three photos: Steve Rumrill

## PERS News


*continued from page 17*

the current state of knowledge regarding native oyster restoration efforts, (2) bring together the best available science and identify research needs; and (3) develop statewide goals and guidelines for future oyster restoration efforts.

The Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association Meeting will be held 20-23 September 2010 in Tacoma, WA. Keynote addresses will be delivered on *Carbon Cycles in the North Pacific and Trends in Ocean Acidification* (**Burke Hales** / Oregon State University), *Acidification Impacts on the Survival, Growth, and Behavior of Hard Clams* (**George Waldbusser** / Oregon State University), and *The Combined Effects of Ocean Acidification, Mixing, and Respiration on pH and Carbonate Saturation in an Urbanized Estuary* (**Richard Feely** / NOAA).

A fourth conference titled, *"The Ocean Impacts of Climate Change: Science, People, and Policy,"* was held on 10 September 2010 at the University of Oregon (Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics; Eugene, OR). The conference highlighted the relevant scientific findings, identified the scope of climate impacts on human communities, and the potential policy and legal responses to the impacts of climate change. Examples of directional climate change were presented for the north Pacific, Puget Sound, and the near-shore regions of the Oregon coast.

## National Estuaries Day 2010

National Estuaries Day is an annual celebration of the vibrant coastal areas where rivers meet the sea. The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR; Charleston, OR) celebrated National Estuaries Day, 25 September 2010, by hosting a full day of family-oriented events and festivities as well as paddle, peddle, and hiking journeys through the estuary and adjacent roads and trails. All proceeds from the South Slough NERR National Estuary Day event were donated to sister organizations located in the Gulf of Mexico to help lessen the impacts from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Padilla Bay NERR (Mt. Vernon, WA) celebrated National Estuaries Day by presenting **EstuaryLive**, a live video and virtual tour of estuaries around the country. 

## ACCESS & NEERS News

*continued from page 16*

Winners of the ACCESS and NEERS combined student awards included:

**BEST GRADUATE ORAL PRESENTATION** (\$100 each, tie for first place): **Marc Skinner**, Canadian Rivers Institute at UNB Fredericton, "Impact of suspended oyster aquaculture on eel grass photosynthesis, growth rate and distribution"; and **Kristin Wilson**, University of Maine-Orono, "Does groundwater flow control surficial salt marsh pool morphology?"

**BEST GRADUATE POSTER** (\$200): **Michael Coffin**, Mount Allison University, New Brunswick, "Effect of the mud snail *Ilyanassa obsoleta* on vital rates and behaviours of the amphipod *Corophium volutator*"

**BEST UNDERGRADUATE ORAL PRESENTATION** (\$100 each, tie for first place): **Daniel Griffith**, Vassar College, New York, "Spar-

*tina alterniflora's* (Poaecae) peculiar relationship with sulfide"; and **Brady Quinn**, Mount Allison University, New Brunswick, "Interactions between invertebrate predators in intertidal mussel bed communities"

**BEST UNDERGRADUATE POSTER** (\$200): **Brent Wilson**, UNB Saint John, "Interaction between the European green crab, *Carcinus maenas*, and two intertidal snails, *Littorina obtusata* and *L. littorea*: a test of the arms race hypothesis"

**PROJECT UFO PRIZE** (\$150): **Mark Wilcox**, UNB Saint John, "Variation in chelae morphology and diet of the green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) along the southwestern shore of New Brunswick"

We would like to thank **Walter Boynton**, President-Elect of CERF, for providing words of welcome on behalf of CERF. We would also like to acknowledge the keynote speakers: Dr. **Graham Daborn**, Honorary Research Associate, Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research, who gave a talk titled, "Fundy Tidal Power and Its Trans-Boundary Implications"; and **Art McKay**,

*continued on page 19*



**Anna Redden** (Director, Acadia Center For Estuarine Research, Acadia University); **Walter Boynton**, President-Elect for CERF; and **Graham Daborn**, keynote speaker; enjoy the poster social.

Photo credit: M. Jones



**Pam Morgan**, President of NEERS (far left) and **Martha Jones**, President of ACCESS (far right), congratulate co-winners of the Best Graduate Oral Presentation (\$100 each, tie for first place), **Kristin Wilson** (University of Maine, Orono) and **Marc Skinner** (Canadian Rivers Institute at UNB Fredericton). Photo credit: S. Hale

CERF 2007 special session results in new book...

## Coastal Lagoons: Critical Habitats of Environmental Change


You know that CERF conferences provide opportunities for scientific discovery and exchange, intellectual stimulation, and collaboration building, as well as an occasion to reconnect with old colleagues/friends and make new ones. Now, you can add the publication of a new book to the list of conference values.

*Coastal Lagoons: Critical Habitats of Environmental Change*, published this June, is an outgrowth of a special session of the CERF 19th Biennial Conference, held in Providence, Rhode Island, in November 2007. This special session, titled, *Human and Climatic Factors Affecting Eutrophication of Coastal Lagoonal Ecosystems*, focused on the escalating eutrophication problems in coastal lagoons worldwide, the indicators of eutrophic conditions in these shallow water bodies, the influences of natural factors, and the resulting biotic and ecosystem impairments.

Edited by CERF members **Hans**

**Paerl and Mike Kennish**, *Coastal Lagoons: Critical Habitats of Environmental Change*, examines the function and structure of coastal lagoonal ecosystems and the natural and anthropogenic drivers of change that affect them. The 20 chapters include contributions from such notable CERF past presidents, governing board members, and members as **Bob Christian, Scott Nixon, Peggy Fong, Pat Glibert, Karen McGlathery, Iris Anderson, Ken Dunton, Paul Montagna**, and many others.

A single-source reference for coastal lagoons within the arena of the global environment, *Coastal Lagoons: Critical Habitats of Environmental Change* is available from CRC Press ([www.crcpress.com](http://www.crcpress.com)). CERF members can use promo code **757CC** to receive a 20% discount off the list price.

You just never know what will come out of a CERF conference. Maybe they'll even write a book about it! 

## Special Issue of Estuaries and Coasts Available Now!


Robyn McKenna  
[Robyn.McKenna@springer.com](mailto:Robyn.McKenna@springer.com)

A special issue of *Estuaries and Coasts* (edited by **Paul Harrison, Adriana Zingone** and **Ed Philips**) is now available on the Springer website. *Phytoplankton Time Series in Estuaries and Coastal Ecosystems* presents analyses of some of the longest records of phytoplankton observation made in the world's estuaries and near shore coastal waters.

These analyses reveal strong responses of the phytoplankton community to human actions. Such responses include nutrient enrichment (Deep Bay Hong Kong, **Xu et al.**; Skidaway River Estuary, **Verity and Borkman**), nutrient reductions (northern Adriatic Sea, **Mozetic et al.**; Seto Inland Sea, **Nishikaway et al.**), and modifications of river flow (Guadiana Estuary, **Barbosa et al.**).

Other time series reveal equally strong responses to climatic variability: biomass responses to rainfall associated with ENSO cycles (Patos Lagoon, **Abreu et al.**) or hurricanes (Florida Bay, **Briceño and Boyer**; Neuse Estuary, **Paerl et al.**); shifts in seasonal patterns associated with warming trends (western Scheldt Estuary, **Kromkamp and Van Engeland**); and large community changes associated with multidecadal climate cycles, such as the North Atlantic Oscillation (Kaötela Bay, **Nincevic Gladan et al.**; Massachusetts Bay; **Hunt et al.**).

Responses of phytoplankton to human disturbance and climate variability produce a surprising diversity of phytoplankton patterns revealed by comparative analysis of time series from 84 coastal sites around the world (**Cloern and Jassby**).

You can link to the special issue through the CERF website at <http://www.cerf.org/news/cerf-journal-special-issue>. 

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## ACCESS & NEERS News

*continued from page 18*

Past Executive Director of the St. Croix River Estuary Project, who gave a banquet talk entitled, "Quoddy – a Special Place Between Three Worlds. What You Need to Know about Where You're At!"


Many thanks to the organizing committee on both sides of the border: ACCESS members **Simon Courtenay, Martha Jones, Helen Hunt, Timothy Rawlings, Melisa Wong, Marie-Josée Abgrall, David Methven**; and NEERS members **Steve Hale, Peter Larsen, and Cindy Delpapa**, with help from **Hilary Neckles, Pam Morgan, Tay Evans, and Ed Dettmann**. We would also like to extend a thank you to the graduate students who helped with registration and organization at the conference: **Marie-Josée Abgrall** (student coordinator), **Allan Debertin, Jared Tomie, Jordan Musetta-Lambert, Marc Skinner, Bryan**

**Morse, Betsy Barber, Lauren Ellis, Gudjon Sigurdsson, and Brent Wilson**. Thank you to **Hilary Neckles** and **Robert Buchsbaum** for encouraging interactions during the poster socials by creating a poster trivia contest.

Congratulations all on a successful conference. We look forward to planning another joint meeting in a few years.

### Future Meetings

The next ACCESS meeting will be held in May 2011, at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Check the ACCESS website ([www.cerf-access.ca](http://www.cerf-access.ca)) for details.

The next NEERS meeting will be held 28-30 October 2010 at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown, Massachusetts. Check the NEERS website ([www.neers.org](http://www.neers.org)) for details. 

# CERF Angels and Sustainers

As of 15 September 2010, the following 167 Federation members donated to the William E. Odum Fund, the Donald W. Pritchard Fund or the CERF Enhancement Fund when they renewed their memberships for 2010.

**Thanks to all of you for your generosity. Your contributions of time, energy and support make the Federation great.**

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# CERF Angels and Sustainers

Many thanks to the members who joined or renewed at the Sustaining Member level.  
Your extra efforts on behalf of CERF will ensure the future of the Federation.

**Karim Abood**

LMS Engineers  
Pearl River, NY, USA

**Mark Adams**

Burnaby, BC, CANADA

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Athens, GA, USA

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UC Davis-Bodega Marine  
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# CSCOR Update: Research Opportunities Announced for 2011, National Hypoxia Report Released, Record-setting Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone, and Much, Much More...

John Wickham, Program Analyst  
NOAA, Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research  
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## About CSCOR

NOAA's Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (CSCOR) supports research programs that provide the critical information and predictive capabilities required to manage the Nation's coastal resources in an ecosystem context. CSCOR identifies national research priority issues on behalf of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) and the National Ocean Service and addresses these issues via a stressor-based or regional ecosystem approach.

## CSCOR Summer News

### Funding Announcements Released by CSCOR for FY 2011

The NOAA July Omnibus Competitive Grants announcement has been published for availability of grant funds for Fiscal Year 2011. Announcements of Opportunity have been issued to submit proposals to CSCOR for the Harmful Algal Bloom Program (i.e., ECOHAB, MERHAB and PCMHAB), Regional Ecosystem Prediction Program (REPP) for Understanding Coral Ecosystem Connectivity in the Gulf of Mexico-Pulley Ridge to the Florida Keys and the Regional Ecosystem Prediction Program (REPP) for Concept of Operations for Models to Support Regional Coastal Ecosystem Management. The full Announcements of Federal Funding Opportunity and Federal Register Notices can be accessed through the *Grants.Gov* website at <http://www.grants.gov/search/basic.do>. To search on all the CSCOR announcements use CFDA # 11.478.

### New Report Warns of Expanding Threat of Hypoxia in U. S. Coastal Waters

Declining oxygen levels in U.S. waters are forming dead zones and destroying habitats. Incidents of hypoxia have increased nearly 30 fold in U.S. waters since 1960, according to a new interagency report submitted to Congress. Although the report finds federal research programs are coordinating and addressing many aspects of the problem, restoring systems such as the Gulf of Mexico and Chesapeake Bay, it concludes overall management efforts to stem the tide of hypoxia have not made significant headway. The report provides a comprehensive list of the more than 300 U.S. coastal water bodies affected by hypoxia, describes Federal investments in research and monitoring of hypoxia, and identifies future research priorities. The report production and coordination was led by CSCOR and is the final of five reports mandated by Congress in the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of

2004 and is available online at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/nstc/oceans>

### Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone One of the Largest on Record

CSCOR supported scientists have documented that the 2010 "dead zone" (area of hypoxia, or low oxygen less than 2 mg/L, or ppm) in the northern Gulf of Mexico west of the Mississippi River delta in July covered at least 7,722 square miles, nearly the size of the state of New Jersey. This summer's dead zone is one of the largest recorded since 1985. A large area of hypoxia was found off the coast of Texas; and, therefore, it was not possible to fully document the western edge of the zone given time constraints. The size of the summer's dead zone is also important as a benchmark against which progress in nutrient reductions in the Mississippi River system can be measured. The dead zone was measured by scientists from the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) and Louisiana State University. The measured area closely matches an earlier CSCOR-supported modeling forecast that the 2010 dead zone would measure between 6,500 – 7,800 square miles. CSCOR has supported the mapping of the dead zone in the northern Gulf of Mexico since 1990.

### Little-known Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems Highlighted in *Coral Reefs* Journal

A huge step forward in increasing the understanding and visibility of mesophotic coral ecosystems has been taken with the publication of the first ever section in the journal *Coral Reefs* dedicated to this emerging field. This landmark publication comprehensively describes mesophotic coral ecosystems found in tropical and sub-tropical regions in depths ranging from 30-40 m to over 150 m. These ecosystems have been largely unknown to most managers and researchers. This set of 10 papers includes the first widely-accepted definition of mesophotic coral ecosystems, reviews on the state of knowledge regarding mesophotic coral ecosystems and their community structure, geomorphology, and the 'refugia' hypothesis, as well as seven research articles. This publication is a direct result of the 2008 Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems Workshop hosted by the Perry Institute for Marine Science and organized by CSCOR and NOAA's Undersea Research Program) and the U.S. Geological Survey. The theme section is available from the publisher SpringerLink.

### CSCOR and National Weather Service Facilitate HAB Warnings in Gulf of Maine

For the first time, NOAA weather radio transmitters broadcast warnings about high levels of Paralytic Shellfish

Poisoning (PSP) toxins in shellfish in the offshore and coastal waters of Hancock and Washington (Maine) counties in order to discourage recreational harvesting. The toxins accumulate in shellfish that consume the toxic dinoflagellate, *Alexandrium fundyense*; humans can become severely ill or die if they eat contaminated shellfish. Between 30 June and 8 July, CSCOR-funded scientists mapped two patches of *A. fundyense* in the Gulf of Maine, and Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) found extremely high shellfish toxicity in shellfish from offshore islands. Concerned that residents and visitors in some remote areas might not hear or see warnings, CSCOR, the National Weather Service, and DMR worked together to produce warnings in order to protect public health. For more information on the New England Red Tide events, see [http://www.cop.noaa.gov/news/fs/ne\\_hab\\_2010.aspx](http://www.cop.noaa.gov/news/fs/ne_hab_2010.aspx)

### **New CSCOR Project to Investigate Worsening Green Bay Hypoxia Problem**

Evidence suggests that hypoxia within Green Bay, Wisconsin, a decades-old problem, may be worsening and could potentially increase “dead zones” and fish kills. Green Bay is particularly vulnerable to hypoxia because it receives runoff from one-third of Lake Michigan’s watershed. The excess nutrients from this runoff stimulate algal blooms that lead to hypoxia. CSCOR-sponsored scientists have been awarded first-year funding for a four-year project through CSCOR’s Coastal Hypoxia Research Program to research the causes and environmental impacts of hypoxia in Green Bay. A team from the University of Wisconsin system, Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will develop a predictive model of potential changes in hypoxia relative to land use change and future climate change. The results will help identify acceptable limits for nutrient levels in the water to reduce hypoxia in Green Bay.

### **Identifying Impacts of Rising Sea Levels and Erosion to Coastal Habitats and Communities in the Northern Gulf of Mexico**

Sea Level Rise (SLR) is potentially detrimental to coastal habitats and human settlements along the coast, particularly on the U.S. Gulf Coast, where coastal habitats support the majority of its commercial industry. Local resource managers must adjust their plans to protect and preserve the resources under their care. CSCOR is funding a team led by the University of Central Florida to assess the risk to coasts and coastal habitats from SLR. The team will apply models of circulation, transport and biogeochemistry from the watershed to the sea. Predictions of sediment loadings to the estuary and salinity transport in numerous bay systems will be used to model the evolution of intertidal marshes. Products will include maps that delineate new tidal and habitat boundaries as a result of SLR, estimates of sediment loadings from overland runoff to estuarine systems, projections of changing salinity, marsh/shellfish habitat, land cover, and water resource impacts.


### **CSCOR Awards \$2.5 Million for Research on Invasive Species in the Great Lakes**

CSCOR has awarded \$2.5 million to the University of Notre Dame and partners to predict the next wave of invasive species likely to enter the Great Lakes and to identify cost-effective countermeasures. The project will be taking a strategic big picture look at Great Lakes invasive species. Although CSCOR is providing initial funding for the project, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to contribute to the project through the EPA’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

### **Scientists Work on New Methods to Prevent and Control Harmful Algal Blooms Impacting Atlantic Coastal Communities**

A newly initiated CSCOR HAB Program called Prevention, Control and Mitigation of Harmful Algal Blooms (PCMHAB) has been awarded \$1M for three new projects that will develop proactive solutions to directly manage toxic blooms. The best of these methods will be transitioned into new coastal resource management strategies. One of the three projects will test a strategy to reduce or possibly eliminate toxic blooms of the New England ‘red tide’ alga *Alexandrium fundyense*. This strategy is of great interest in the region as red tide now routinely forces closures of economically important shellfisheries. Two additional projects will focus on strategies to manage blooms of toxic species common to the Mid-Atlantic region including, *Prorocentrum minimum* and *Microcystis aeruginosa*. For more information on the PCMHAB Program see [http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/extremeevents/hab/current/PCM\\_08.aspx](http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/extremeevents/hab/current/PCM_08.aspx)

### **New Forecast and Mobile HAB Lab Will Alert Puget Sound Officials to Toxic Algae**

CSCOR is funding two new research projects in Puget Sound to better understand and manage outbreaks of Harmful Algal Blooms that threaten public health and fisheries. The goal of one project is to develop forecasts of the toxic dinoflagellate *Alexandrium catenella*, based on the occurrence of seed-like cysts and hydrodynamic models. *A. catenella* produces potent neurotoxins that accumulate in shellfish, causing a potentially fatal illness in humans who consume contaminated shellfish. The second project will identify the toxin and the factors enhancing toxicity of the fish-killing alga *Heterosigma akashiwo*. A mobile laboratory will be built and sent to the coast when sightings occur so the alga can be studied in its most active stages. *Heterosigma* has killed millions of aquaculture fish in Puget Sound since 1989, and has recently been implicated in the decline of a major natural salmon run. The research will lead to new strategies for mitigating the impact of *Heterosigma* blooms on wild and farmed fish. 

## EUTRO 2010 Report-Out

Jesper Andersen (DHI),  
jha@dhigroup.com  
Suzanne B. Bricker (NOAA),  
Suzanne.Bricker@noaa.gov

The *Third International Symposium on Research and Management of Eutrophication in Coastal Ecosystems* was organized by DHI, ICES and NOAA, with a focus on science in relation to causes, consequences and reversal of eutrophication. Monitoring, modeling and management were the overarching conference themes ([www.eutro2010.dhi.dk](http://www.eutro2010.dhi.dk)). The symposium was convened in Nyborg, Denmark, on 14-18 June 2010 and was the third in a series; the two preceding symposia took place in 1993 and 2006, respectively. Comprised of two workshops, seven key note presentations, ten sessions, 64 oral presentations about research and management of eutrophication in coastal ecosystems, and wrapped up by a summary presentation, the symposium was attended by 120 participants from 22 countries.

The first symposium, *International Symposium on Nutrient Dynamics in Coastal and Estuarine Environments*, held in 1993, was organized by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with the European Commission as part of an effort to understand the causes, consequences, and societal outcomes of eutrophication. It has had a significant influence, mainly via the Symposium Proceedings, which were published in *OPHELIA* (vol. 41 and 42). Some of the papers, especially Nixon (1995) "Coastal marine eutrophication: a definition, social courses, and future concerns" and Duarte (1995) "Submerged aquatic vegetation in relation to different nutrient regimes" are highly cited and have led to much additional research.

A follow-up symposium, organized by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, Fyn County, the Swedish Environmental Protection

Agency and DHI Denmark, was convened in 2006 to address eutrophication problems that remained despite major developments in scientific knowledge and understanding.

Today, almost 17 years after the first symposium, the problems associated with eutrophication are still far from being solved. There have been major developments in scientific knowledge and in the conceptual understanding of nutrient enrichment and eutrophication in coastal waters. However, new questions and challenges have emerged, especially in relation to modeling and management of coastal eutrophication; and many challenges remain. The EUTRO 2010 symposium was organized by ICES, DHI and NOAA with the intent of fostering international dialogue and exchange of information concerning management of nutrient issues. Special focus was put on discussion of specific issues: 1) climate and physical controls on the biogeochemical dynamics of the coastal zone; 2) monitoring, modeling and assessment of eutrophication; and 3) linking loads with nutrient concentrations and effects, with an emphasis on using science results for development of ecosystem-based Nutrient Management Strategies.

Special thanks go to the following agencies that supported EUTRO 2010: the Nordic Council of Ministers, the European Commission, DG Environment, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Norwegian Climate and Pollution Control Authority (KLIF), National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF), University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Danish Ministry of Environment, Environmental Centre Odense (ECO), BONUS, Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), and OSPAR Commission.

A fourth symposium is being planned for 2014 and is expected to take place in the United States with NOAA as the lead organizing agency,

supported by DHI and other international organizations. The proposed EUTRO 2014 symposium will promote development of management tools through continued international exchange of scientific results and successful management approaches carried out in fulfillment of legislative mandates (e.g., U.S. Clean Water Act, European Union Water Framework Directive, and People's Republic of China Law on Prevention and Control of Water Pollution). The meeting is intended to be more synthetic, striving to link four major themes: science, management, policy and environmental law. The output from EUTRO 2014 will transcend 'typical' / 'normal' outcomes; the synthesis of information and data will be developed into a blueprint for future nutrient and eutrophication research, assessment and management in a comprehensive way. Research and assessment tools and approaches, as well as successful legislative policies, will be made available online for use by those working to solve nutrient-related problems in coastal waters. 

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### SAVE THE DATES!

*21st Biennial Conference of the  
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation*

## CERF 2011

SOCIETIES, ESTUARIES  
AND COASTS:  
ADAPTING TO CHANGE

Daytona Beach, Florida, USA

6-11 November 2011

**ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL OPENS  
JANUARY 2011**

**ABSTRACT DEADLINE  
20 MAY 2011**

For more information, go to the  
CERF website [www.erf.org](http://www.erf.org)

# ALASDAIR McINTYRE

## 1926 – 2010

Excerpted from <http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/bulletin.asp> and *The Marine Pollution Bulletin*

With thanks to CERF Member **John Pearce**


**Alasdair McIntyre** was one of Scotland's leading marine scientists, whose scientific career spanned forty years at the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen. There he conducted and led research on marine ecology, fisheries and pollution. He was appointed Director of Fisheries Research for Scotland in 1983 and Coordinator of Fisheries Research and Development for the United Kingdom in 1986. On his retirement in 1987, he became Emeritus Professor of Fisheries and Oceanography at the University of Aberdeen. He was much involved in issues of marine environmental quality and human impacts, including the effects of fishing, of pollutant inputs and of oil exploitation. He was awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 1994 for services to Fisheries and Marine Conservation. <http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/bulletin.asp>

Alasdair's handbook, *Methods for the Study of Marine Benthos*, has become the bible for anyone studying marine benthos. He was one of the first to recognize the importance of meiofauna in benthic community structure. The 1988 BH Ketchum Award Winner for Benthic Ecology, Alasdair helped generations of marine biologists, whether as a PhD supervisor and examiner, committee member, or teacher of undergraduate and postgraduate students. Among his many influential positions, he was President of the Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association (ECSA), Chair of the UN Joint Group of Experts on Marine Pollution (GESAMP), Chair of the Atlantic Frontier Environmental Forum, and President of the Scottish Association for Marine Science. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*

## Can CERF Help Find Solutions?

*continued from page 7*

important that we communicate more broadly and more effectively, both across disciplines and between the science, policy, and various stakeholder communities. The new journal/web site, *Solutions* ([www.thesolutionsjournal.org](http://www.thesolutionsjournal.org)), is trying to do just that, incorporating a variety of new techniques to encourage dialog and consensus-building on real, integrated solutions. Additionally, utilizing the Federation's own journal, *Estuaries and Coasts*, to publish more work dealing with the social and policy issues of our coasts will also help open up the discourse.

Time is running out. We know much about the problems and need to now focus on applying what we know toward finding solutions. CERF and its members can help lead the way. 

## ENDNOTES

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*Anti-fouling copper sensors and sonde guard on YSI sonde deployed for more than 1 month without biofouling build-up. Photo: Stephanie Hess, King County, WA.*

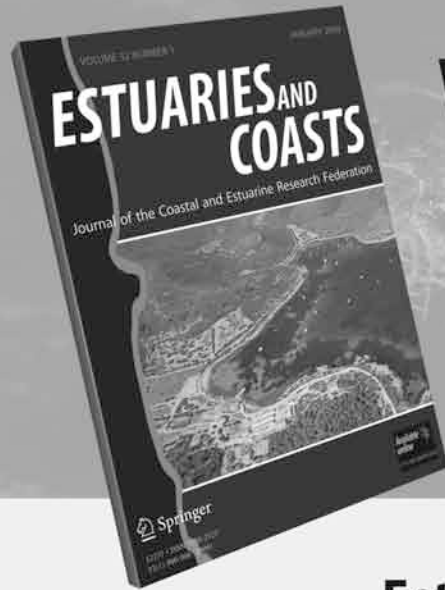
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Journal of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation

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The Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation publishes the scholarly journal *Estuaries and Coasts*, six times per year. The following table of contents is for the fifth issue of the Journal for 2010. It is reprinted here as a service to *Newsletter* readers and is also online at [www.springer.com/CERF](http://www.springer.com/CERF).

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**Coastal and Estuarine Science News**

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CESN provides summaries of articles with coastal management implications from the Federation's journal *Estuaries and Coasts*. The summaries are free of charge and are delivered to interested parties via email and posted on CERF's website 6 times a year. To sign up for your email delivery, please visit [www.erf.org](http://www.erf.org).

*CERF Student Membership Is A Bargain!!*

## **If You Are or Were a Student – Read This!**

*Robert R. Christian, ERF President 2005-2007  
Christianr@ecu.edu*

While I was a graduate student, I attended the annual meetings of a different scientific society and observed that the graduate students there spent considerable time trying to talk to assistant professors; assistant professors tried to talk to associate professors; associate professors tried to talk to full professors; and full professors tried to hide and talk

Third, students can **develop their presentation skills in a respectful and friendly environment.** Affiliate Societies provide an excellent forum for that first presentation. CERF conference organizers encourage students to fully participate in both oral and poster sessions, giving students their choice of presentation format over 75% of the time.

***Egalitarianism is one of CERF's greatest strengths, and it starts with respect for everyone irrespective of stage of career.***

among themselves. I have never felt this caste system at our biennial conferences or meetings of our Affiliate Societies. As a younger member of ERF, my limitations to interacting with others were from my own introversion, not any explicit or implied social order. **Egalitarianism is one of CERF's greatest strengths, and it starts with respect for everyone irrespective of stage of career.**

Students comprise between 10 and 16% of the CERF membership, with more student members during biennial conference years. Students are fully franchised. Their membership includes the right to vote and hold office. Now I admit that a graduate student is unlikely to be elected President, but that has more to do with the size of personal network and experience than any formal restrictions. Furthermore, students often play crucial and appreciated roles for both CERF and the Affiliate Societies.

**Students receive numerous advantages from their membership in CERF and its Affiliate Societies.** First and most obvious is the reduced annual membership dues. Student CERF dues are less than half the normal membership; and as they say in the commercials, "for about \$1 per week...."

Second are the **recognition of merit and the financial breaks** at meetings. Monetary awards for outstanding student presentations at CERF and Affiliate conferences look great on your CV and ease the cost of attendance. Affiliate Societies and CERF offer students reduced registration fees, travel stipends and some offer payment for on-site work.

Fourth, one of CERF's few standing committees is the "Education Committee." It provides a number of opportunities to students, including E-Refs and extra financial support for meeting attendance when possible. Finally, the job postings on the CERF web site are the most viewed pages and help provide a way out of studentdom.

Fifth, CERF helps students develop **leadership and organization skills** by welcoming them to serve on committees and get involved with the management of their society's events and programs.

Above are the tangible benefits of student membership, and perhaps as important is a less tangible benefit – **the ability to network and be recognized** as being part of the community of coastal and estuarine scientists. Colleagues and friends made at Affiliate Society and CERF meetings during student years often continue throughout one's career. Some of these people will review your future manuscripts and proposals, others may be future collaborators — or even bosses.

Speaking of future bosses, a curriculum vita that indicates **memberships in professional societies is a positive factor for employment.** As an estuarine and coastal scientist, being a member of ACCESS, AERS, CAERS, GERS, NEERS, PERS, SEERS, or CERF is a definite plus. The person doing the interviewing and making the decision may also be a member — a member who began as a student, values the connections and looks favorably on helping a fellow member.

# News from the Federation's Member Services Staff

CERF Member Services  
membership@erf.org



## Greetings CERF Members!

Fall means CERF membership renewal time. We look forward to receiving your 2011 renewal (or your two-year renewal) and to continuing to serve you from the member services office.

### We highly encourage you to renew online—it's fast, easy and reliable!

To renew your membership, simply log on to CERF Member Services through [www.erf.org](http://www.erf.org). Of course, if you prefer to renew by mail, use the form located inside the back page of this *Newsletter*.

### Membership is every member's business—please pass out invitations!

Guess what people say is the main reason they do not belong to an organization? Nobody asked them to join! People especially like to be asked to join by people they know and respect—that's you, our members!

As a member you know how much you benefit from the high quality information you get from the Federation's strong peer network, excellent journal, lively conferences and Affiliate Society meetings.

Please tell your colleagues and students about these good things that CERF membership brings and invite them to become members. We would love to welcome them into the Federation family. Your invitation will help make the Federation a stronger society for all of us.

### Electronic format only, but printed journal is available, too.

The journal is available to you at any time in an electronic format. You can also choose to receive the printed journal for \$20/year. If you want to receive the printed journal, be sure to indicate your preference when you renew.

### Opt-out feature available

Occasionally we rent our mailing list to other organizations that want to distribute information of scientific or technical interest (no mortgage consolidators or cell phone companies!). Please be assured, CERF does not allow the use of members' email addresses or give out the email addresses of its members. Usually you receive from three to six pieces of mail per year from this route. If you would like to avoid these missives, please let us know by contacting [membership@erf.org](mailto:membership@erf.org) or CERF Member Services, 5400 Bosque Blvd, Ste 680, Waco, TX 76710.

### New for 2011 – Opt-in for electronic only *Newsletter*

The CERF *Newsletter* hits your mailbox three times each year. If you'd like to start receiving the *Newsletter* in your email inbox *only*, please indicate that preference when you renew.

### Thanks!!

Thank you for your membership! Be sure to let us know if we can help you or answer any questions. Please renew today and continue to receive your excellent Federation member benefits. 🌐



# CERF Membership Form 2011

Membership forms received before September 1 are for the current year; those received on or after September 1 will be applied to the following year unless otherwise requested. Please note that the first issue of the journal is available in January.

## Member's Contact Information

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**For more information please visit [www.erf.org](http://www.erf.org)**

**Member Profile:** Before submitting your membership form, please take a moment to give us some information. This information is for use in the CERF HQ, so that we can better serve our members. This information will not be sold to any outside interests. **Thanks!**

**Employment**

Educational Institution     Federal Govt.

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Consulting/Business     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Duties**

Mainly research     Research & teaching

Management     Mainly teaching

**Areas of Expertise**

Aquaculture     Hydrology

Biochemistry     Invasive Species

Biogeochemistry     Marine Policy

Biology (Invertebrates)     Modeling

Biology (Microorganisms)     Nutrient Cycling

Biology (Plants)     Oceanography (Biological)

Biology (Vertebrates)     Oceanography (Chemical)

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Climate Change     Oceanography (Physical)

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Geology

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Harmful Algal Blooms

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to become involved in advising policy makers.

## Membership Category

Note: All individual members subscribing to the society's journal will automatically receive electronic access. To receive the printed journal (\$20/year), check the box below.

I would like to receive the printed version of the journal. . . . . \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## Voluntary Contributions

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## Affiliate Society Membership Fees

Members in good standing may pay dues for their Affiliate Society memberships:

Atlantic Canada Coastal Estuarine Science Society (ACCESS) . . . . . (USD) \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**TOTAL FUNDS ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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5400 Bosque Blvd., Suite 680  
Waco, TX 76710

Members paying by credit card may fax this form to CERF at 254-776-3767.

Occasionally, the Federation rents portions of the membership mailing list to select for-profit and nonprofit organizations for one-time use. Permission to use this list is granted only if the intended mailing benefits our members and conveys important information regarding estuarine and coastal research and management. If you prefer not to be included, please send a message to [membership@erf.org](mailto:membership@erf.org) or CERF Member Services, 5400 Bosque Blvd Ste 680, Waco, TX 76710.

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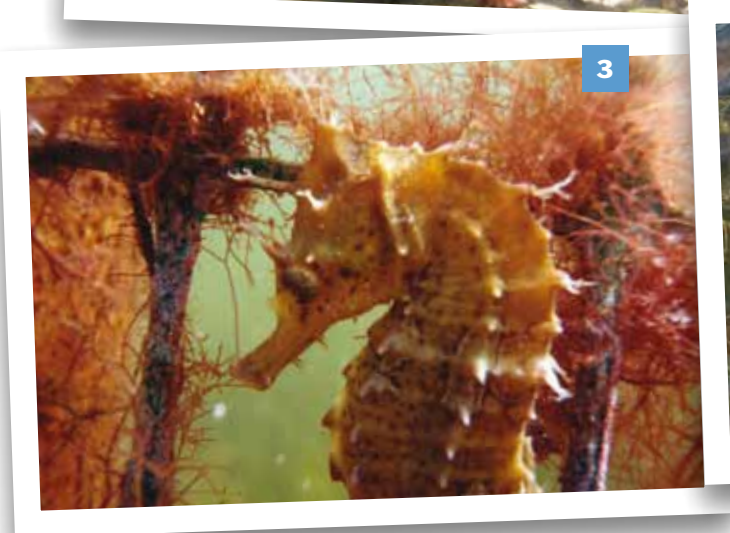
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**1**



**2**



**3**



**4**

**1. Boze Hancock** of The Nature Conservancy installing oyster restoration mats at a demonstration event in March of 2008. Photo credit: **Anne Birch**, TNC

**2. Melissa Adams**, Environmental Scientist (PBS&J contracted to SJRWMD), monitoring the deeper seagrass and *Caulerpa* spp. beds in the Indian River Lagoon. Photo credit: **Lauren Herren**

**3. The elusive, but always present, seahorse** discovers a macroalgae monitor plot in the Indian River Lagoon. Photo credit: **Brad Fuhrman**

**4. Always finding treasures in the seagrass bed** while monitoring fixed transects



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