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Coastal Resources Management Center



IN THIS ISSUE

Coastal eNews and Notes, Edited by Keane Callahan, Environmental Analyst

[-NOAA and EPA Approves Connecticut's Coastal Nonpoint Program](#)

[-EPA Denies Petition on Ballast Water Discharges](#)

[-NOAA Creates Web Site On Beach Nourishment](#)

[-Oregon's Coastal Atlas Facilitates Decision-Making](#)

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NOAA and EPA Approves Connecticut's Coastal Nonpoint Program

Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments or "CZARA" requires coastal states and territories with approved coastal zone management programs to develop and implement coastal nonpoint programs. Coastal states and territories originally submitted their proposed coastal nonpoint programs to The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval in July 1995, and Connecticut's coastal nonpoint program was conditionally approved on June 3, 1998. NOAA and the EPA have now issued a notice indicating their final approval the Connecticut's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program. With the approval of Connecticut's program, there are now 16 coastal states and territories with fully approved programs. Copies of the approval can be obtained upon request from: Helen Farr, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, phone (301) 713-3155, x150, e-mail helen.farr@noaa.gov. Public comments on the approval decision must be submitted by October 15, 2003 to: John King, Acting Chief, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, phone (301) 713-3155, x188, e-mail john.king@noaa.gov.

EPA Denies Petition on Ballast Water Discharges

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) denied a petition filed by several environmental groups requiring ships to obtain Clean Water Act permits for their ballast water discharges. The environmental organizations petitioned EPA in 1999 to repeal a regulation exempting ballast water discharges from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or "NPDES" permits, claiming that ballast discharges should be permitted because they are a major discharge pathway for the introduction of invasive species into U.S. harbors. The environmental groups sued in 2001 to force the EPA to respond to the petition (*Northwest Environmental Advocates v. EPA*, N.D. Cal., No. 01-1297, 4/2/02; 67 DEN A-2, 4/6/01). In denying the petition, EPA said the federal government is engaged in numerous activities to control the introduction of invasive species which are likely to be more effective and efficient than NPDES permits.

NOAA Creates Web Site On Beach Nourishment

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center has created a new web site on beach nourishment. The new web resource, *Beach Nourishment: A Guide for Local Governments*, was developed to help state and local organizations and coastal businesses make informed decisions about beach nourishment. The web site includes descriptions of coastal geological and ecological processes, discussions of legal and regulatory requirements, information on federal project cost sharing, and the pros and cons of beach nourishment. Click [here](#) to access the web site.

Oregon's Coastal Atlas Facilitates Decision-Making

The Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) has developed an interactive mapping and data sharing web site designed for use by coastal managers, scientists, and the general public. The Oregon Coastal Atlas improves geospatial data and information retrieval, visualization and interpretation for coastal zone management decision-making. The Atlas allows users to look for and find data pertaining to a particular inquiry or coastal issue, to understand the original context of the data, and to apply or implement selected data via online tools to address a particular coastal management question or issue. OCMP is also engaged in an effort to initiate and expand the Geographic Information System or "GIS" capacity of local coastal communities to improve routine implementation of coastal management plans and coastal land use permitting and decision-making. Click [here](#) to access the Oregon Coastal Atlas. For more information, contact Paul Klarin at paul.klarin@state.or.us.

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

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