



*Welcome to the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program E-Update – a monthly summary of selected activities of the APNEP staff, committees and our partners...*

**The APNEP Management Advisory Committee** (MAC) held its second meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh. In addition to an overview presentation on the program by Director, Bill Crowell, Dean Carpenter, APENP Science Coordinator brought the group up-to-date on the status of environmental indicator development. Linda Rimer, US EPA, was named Chair of the group, and Steve Wall, NC DENR, the Vice-Chair. The next meeting of the MAC will be held in conjunction with the Policy Board, Science and Technical Advisory Committee, and Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> at the EPA "green" building at the Research Triangle Park.

**Conservation Oriented Farm Bill Introduced** - Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI), Jim Gerlach (R-PA), and Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) unveiled a bill dealing with the reauthorization of the 2007 Farm Bill, entitled The Healthy Farms, Foods, and Fuels Act of 2007. This bill, would double conservation spending to provide cleaner air, water and wildlife habitat, help stabilize global warming, and provide consumers with greater access to healthy foods over the life of the next farm bill. According to a joint press release by the bill's sponsors, the bill makes a major new investment in the development of renewable energy on American farms, promotes resource conservation, provides consumers with healthier food choices, and boosts farm profitability and also includes a provision to assist farmers in transitioning to organic production. It is reported that the proposal is unlikely to see any play in committee, since the leaders of the House and Senate Agriculture panels will take up their own farm bill rewrites. But it could set the stage for the sort of debate and amendments the farm bill can expect to see on the House and Senate floor. The press statement issued by the sponsoring representatives can be viewed at:

<http://www.house.gov/kind/press/070315-%20Healthy%20Farms%20News%20Re.pdf>

### **Administration Announces National Offshore Aquaculture**

**Act**-The U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez announced that the Administration's National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007 had been sent to Congress. The purpose of the 2007 Act is to create a regulatory framework that allows for safe and sustainable aquaculture operations for fish and shellfish in U.S. federal waters, three or more miles off the coast. According to a United Nations' Food and Agriculture

Organization report issued last year almost half of global seafood production came from aquaculture and half of the seafood imported to the United States is farmed. Currently, there is no clear federal authority for the permitting of offshore aquaculture in federal waters. The 2007 Act addresses this problem and would:

- Authorize the Secretary of Commerce to issue offshore aquaculture permits.
- Require the Secretary of Commerce to establish environmental requirements.
- Require the Secretary of Commerce to work with other federal agencies to develop and implement a coordinated permitting process for offshore aquaculture.
- Exempt permitted offshore aquaculture from fishing regulations that restrict size, season and harvest methods.
- Authorize a research and development program for all types of marine aquaculture.
- Authorize funding to carry out the Act and provide for enforcement of it.

For additional information and view the current view various documents related to the bill, visit:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mediacenter/aquaculture/offshore.htm>.

### **North Carolina Managers Inform Development of Sea Level Rise Model**

- In an effort to engage the management community in identifying tools and information products that can help local communities better plan for future sea level rise and storm surge, the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) recently held a workshop at the North Carolina Aquarium in Pine Knoll Shores, NC. The goal of the workshop was to solicit guidance from the coastal management community for designing scientifically informed modeling and mapping tools to assist governing agencies and businesses located in North Carolina's coastal zone to plan for and mitigate the regional impacts of sea level rise and extreme events. Expert advice from North Carolina coastal managers is invaluable in aiding NCCOS and its academic partners in designing useful management products. Workshop results will help create user friendly mapping and modeling tools that forecast the effects of proposed management activities under various long term sea level rise and storm surge scenarios. The workshop, held January 31-February 1, 2007, was developed in partnership with NOAA's Coastal Services Center and the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve System Program. For more information, contact Carol Auer at (301) 713-3338 x164 or [Carol.Auer@noaa.gov](mailto:Carol.Auer@noaa.gov). or, to view a simple graphical program to show changes in sea level go to: <http://flood.firetree.net/>

**The Next Meeting** of the Virginia Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> at a time and place to be arranged. Please save the date!

**The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Environment Virginia Conference** will be held in Lexington, VA Tuesday, April 10 though Thursday April 12. To register, please go to: <http://www.environmentva.org/Register/register.asp>

**The Oyster Gardening Project**, funded in part by APNEP in 2006, has really bloomed! North Carolina citizens are growing this program, as you'll see from the following citizen efforts:

**Workshop - March 31 12-3pm Cedar Point**-tentatively scheduled a workshop on Saturday March 31st at the Western Carteret Community Center, Old Route 58, Cedar Point from 12 -3pm. We will build cages and have seed available.

**SPAT Collection**-A number of our members has decided to use seeded shells instead of oyster seed in their cages. SPAT can be collected a number of ways - bags, PVC pipe dipped in cement, etc. It is best to put out the collector in early June. Some members do not live in areas that currently have oysters. Other members live in areas of high SPAT. We would like to establish partnership for SPAT collection. The non-SPAT area folks could bring collectors to your dock in June and pick them up in August. If you are willing to serve as a Surrogate SPAT MOM (SSM) please let me know. This will be a great way of increasing the NC Oysters.

**Speaker Series**-The North Carolina Coastal Federation is sponsoring a speaker series - The Incredible (Not Just Edible) Oyster at Airlie Gardens, in Wilmington. We are hoping to speak at one of more of the presentations. If not, at least have a presence there.

Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

1. Oyster Biology - Troy Alphin, UNCW 10-10:30 a.m.
  - a. Oyster lifecycle (spawning, fertilization, larva, setting)
  - b. Oyster Ecology
  - c. Oyster Habitat
  - d. Oyster Disease & harmful algae blooms
2. N.C. History & Oyster Culture - William Stott, UNC 10:40-11:10 a.m.
  - a. Oyster Fishery Culture
  - b. Current Harvesting Trends
3. Current Oyster Work in NC - Stephen Taylor, DMF 11:20-11:50 a.m.
  - a. Oyster Shell Recycling Program
  - b. Under (U)-dock oyster growing program - permit process and how to sign up

Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

- Current Issues Affecting Shellfish Waters - Mike Giles, Cape Fear Coastkeeper 10-10:30 a.m.
- a. Water quality/Stormwater runoff
  - b. Closed waters
  - c. Habitat loss
2. Current Oyster Work in NC - Marc Turano, NC Sea Grant 10:40-11:10am
    - a. Aquaculture/oyster leases
    - b. Backyard Oyster Gardening
    - c. Oyster Gardeners of NC
  3. Citizen Involvement in Oyster Restoration - Sarah Phillips, NCCF 11:20-11:50 a.m.
    - a. Citizen volunteer opportunities with non-profits and other groups

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

1. Oyster Restoration Work in NC - Tracy Skrabal, NCCF 10-10:30 a.m.
  - a. DMF restoration efforts
  - b. NCCF efforts
  - c. Airlie Gardens blanket reef, etc.
  - d. TNC efforts
2. Restoration-based Oyster Research - Ami Wilbur, UNCW 10:40-11:10 a.m.
  - c. What research is telling us about how and where to build reefs, larvae transport, how oysters differ genetically, etc.
3. NC Hatchery Programs/Legislation - Joanne Harcke, NC Aquarium 11:20-11:50 a.m.
  - a. Legislation - sanctuaries; shell recycling; stormwater; hatchery

- b. NC Aquarium Oyster Hatchery Planning Project
- c. Education and outreach, mariculture training

Sessions are free, though reservations are encouraged. Way to go NC citizens!

## **EPA Seeks Nominations for Smart Growth Achievement**

**Awards**-EPA is seeking nominations for their National Smart Growth Achievement Awards. The awards are for communities that embody smart growth via transit and housing choice, green space preservation, reinvestment or equity. This competition is open to public-sector entities that have used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially, and economically. This year, applications will be accepted in five categories:

- \* Overall Excellence in Smart Growth
- \* Built Projects
- \* Policies and Regulations
- \* Equitable Development
- \* Waterfront and Coastal Communities

Interested parties are encouraged to submit applications for smart growth policies, projects, or programs that have shown significant activity between April 3, 2002, and April 3, 2007. Successful applicants will have used smart growth principles to create places that respect community culture and the environment, foster economic development, and enhance quality of life and public health. Applications are due on April 3, 2007. Up to five winners will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in November 2007. For more details about the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement, including application forms for each category, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm>.

## **PBS to Air Program on the State of the Ocean's Animals-**

On March 28, 2007, the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) will air a new episode of its Journey to Planet Earth Series "State of the Ocean's Animals", is the tenth installment of public television's award-winning series. Actor Matt Damon hosts the episode that looks at why nearly half the world's marine animals may face extinction over the next twenty-five years. Case studies focus on how global warming, sea-level rise, over-fishing, and habitat destruction are stressing the world's oceans. The journey takes the viewer to the Pacific Northwest, (whales, salmon and sea otters), New England (coastal fisheries), Florida (sea level rise and its effect on loggerhead turtles), Japan (the slaughter of dolphins), China (shark fin trade), the Antarctic (threats to Emperor Penguins), and Africa (coastal fisheries). Check local listings for exact showtimes. Educational materials available at <http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/>. Downloadable photos from past programs are available at [www.pbs.org/pressroom](http://www.pbs.org/pressroom) <<http://www.pbs.org/pressroom>>

**If You Haven't Visited** the NC Office of Environmental Education website lately, you're missing out on a plethora of GREAT information. Their new interactive format is a wonderful resource, as you'll see when visiting there. Why not take the time now to learn about North Carolina Environmental Education Month (April 15-22)

culminating with the annual celebration of Earth Day on the 22<sup>nd</sup>? Their website address is: <http://www.ee.enr.state.nc.us/>

**The Two Regional Associations** of the [Estuarine Research Federation](#) (ERF) whose respective jurisdictions overlap in North Carolina, the [Southeastern Estuarine Research Society](#) (SEERS) and the [Atlantic Estuarine Research Society](#) (AERS), held their spring 2007 meetings jointly on March 15-17 at the North Carolina Aquarium in Pine Knoll Shores. The meeting's theme was "Global change and its effects from the rivers to the sea." APNEP was a co-sponsor of the event, which featured five invited, one keynote, and 24 submitted oral presentations, plus 35 poster presentations. Three of the five invited presenters and discussion panelists during the introductory session were members of APNEP's [Science and Technical Advisory Committee \(STAC\)](#): Dave Mallinson (ECU), Mike Mallin (UNCW), and Hans Pearl (UNC-CH IMS). Meeting organizer (and STAC Executive Board member), Bob Christian (ECU) was very pleased with the 125-person attendance.



Until next time...

Joan Giordano  
APNEP Outreach Coordinator

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