



NEWSWAVE

NEWS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR: OCEAN, COASTS AND GREAT LAKES

Summer 2011

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David J. Hayes, Interior's Deputy Secretary, in the Yates auditorium.

Interior Hosts Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop

National workshop important milestone called for in President's Ocean Policy

By Ann B. Tihansky, Randal Bowman, Alisa Praskovich and Andy Lipsky

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior hosted and co-organized the National Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop at its Washington, D.C., headquarters on June 21-23. The National Workshop brought together more than 500 Federal, state, tribal, and local government representatives, indigenous community leaders, stakeholders, and members of the public from across the country.

The workshop kicked off a major program of regional collaboration to advance the stewardship of our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. In-

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Secretary Salazar Meets with US Coral Reef Task Force

By Ilana Kerner and Liza Johnson

Annual meetings bring together multiple and diverse partners on issues and policy

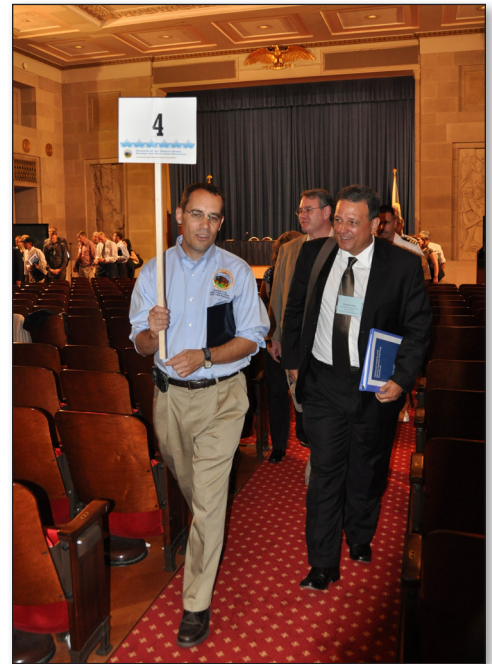
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Interior Supports Ocean Policy Listening Sessions

The National Ocean Council is currently developing strategic action plans to achieve nine national priority objectives that address some of the most pressing challenges to achieving the vision of the National Ocean Policy.

The strategic action plan draft outlines were released in early June for a 30-day public comment period. The National Ocean Council hosted 12 regional public listening sessions across the nation from Alaska to Hawaii to solicit public input and comments to further their development. Interior took the

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Interior hosted over 500 participants for the CMSP Workshop in Washington, D.C. Images (clockwise from upper left): The Honorable Micah McCarty, Chairman of the Makah Tribal Council and Vice Chair of the National Ocean Council's Governance Coordinating Committee (on left) and Chad Bowechop, the Marine Manager in the Makah Office of Marine Affairs open the workshop with a tribal blessing song; one of the many breakout sessions held throughout the Interior's Main Building during the three-day workshop; workshop participants in Interior's Yates Auditorium preparing to break into smaller working group sessions; Chris Darnell, of the USFWS, leads a breakout group to a smaller meeting room for interactive discussions.

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Interior Supports Youth Education and Engagement in Ocean Stewardship

High School Students Determined to Make a Difference Are Next Generation's Leaders

Adapted excerpt from The Coastal Society's 'Bulletin', Volume 33 (1) 2011, used with permission.

Read the full article by Ellen Gordon at: <http://www.thecoastalsociety.org/pdf/bulletin/Spring2011v4.pdf>

The Interior provided support for Coastal America's 3rd National Student Summit on the Ocean and Coasts. The 20 student delegations prepared for the summit by researching an issue affecting their community, developing an action plan to address it and presenting it in Washington, DC. They received feedback from experts including Administration officials and nationally-known scientists. Through these interactions the students are preparing for their own future as leaders in ocean science and policy.

A student from the Waikiki Aquarium delegation presents Hawaiian coastal and marine issues at Coastal America's 2011 Student Summit in Washington, D.C. Photo credit: Susan Baker, NOAA



USFWS Participates in 2011 International Marine Debris Conference

By Bret Wolfe

The 5th International Marine Debris Conference was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, on March 20-25, 2011. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was one of over 30 sponsors that attended along with 440 participants from 38 countries including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, industry, and the public. USFWS's exhibit was designed to demonstrate the ways marine debris affects the coastal National

Marine Wildlife Refuges (NWR) and featured samples of marine debris from the Midway Atoll NWR. One particularly affected area is the Alaska Maritime NWR in the Aleutian Islands where derelict fishing nets and other trash can be found on nearly every coastline in the chain of 800 islands. Numerous seals and sea lions suffer or die annually from ingesting fishing gear or becoming entangled in nets and lines.

The staff at the Alaska Maritime NWR partner with NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, non-governmental organizations, and hundreds of volunteers to remove tons of debris every year even though the task is extremely challenging due to the remoteness of the islands, lack of safe landing beaches, unpredictable weather, and the enormous volume of debris.

In addition to the marine debris that washes up on the beaches, the Midway Atoll and Hawaiian Islands NWRs see a staggering amount of plastic debris brought to the islands by nesting seabirds. The seabirds forage thousands of miles in the North Pacific



Derelict fishing gear at sea is an entanglement threat to many marine sea mammals including the Hawaiian monk seal shown here. Photo credit: NOAA

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lead in organizing and hosting four listening sessions (bold in table) and attended all twelve. In addition, Interior has either the lead or a representative on each of the nine strategic action plan writing teams to ensure Interior’s responsibilities are included as the plans are developed.

Many sessions were accessible via the Web through a public comment portal.

The Listening Sessions provided opportunities for public comments and input. This feedback is critical to identifying our national stewardship needs at regional levels, across all levels of government including local communities that depend on these resources.

At right--Monmouth, NJ, speaker panel, from left to right: Tony MacDonald (Monmouth); Alan Thornhill (BOEMRE); Paul Sandifer (NOAA); Teresa Christopher (National Ocean Council); Matt Larsen (USGS); and John Oliver (Coast Guard).



Interior representatives in Barrow, Alaska where they attended the Listening Session -from left, Terry Holman, Mary Boatman (representing the National Ocean Council), Jim Kendall and Eileen Sobeck.



Maureen Bornholdt, BOEMRE, welcomes participants to the listening session in Monmouth, NJ.

National Listening Sessions for Public Comments on the National Ocean Council’s Strategic Action Plans

Date	Location	Interior lead
June 9	Washington, DC	Alan Thornhill
June 9	Barrow, AK	Eileen Sobeck
June 10	Anchorage, AK	Eileen Sobeck
June 13	Chicago, IL (U.S. EPA Regional Headquarters)	Charlie Wooley
June 15	Jacksonville, FL	Eric Strom
June 16	Honolulu, HI (East-West Center)	Don Palawaski
June 27	Exeter, NH (Exeter High School)	Alan Thornhill
June 27	Galveston, TX	Eileen Sobeck
June 27	Ocean Shores, WA	
June 30	San Francisco Bay Area, CA (Quinault Beach Resort and Casino)	Eileen Sobeck
June 30	West Long Branch, NJ (Monmouth University)	Alan Thornhill

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terior hosted the meeting on behalf of the National Ocean Council, which includes 27 federal agencies and offices.

Deputy Secretary Hayes led a panel of top federal officials discussing the vision and stewardship responsibilities for President Obama's National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts and the Great Lakes, focusing on Interior's unique implementation role and responsibility. He was joined by John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology/Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair Nancy Sutley, who also is Co-Chair of the National Ocean Council (NOC); Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere/NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco; Vice Admiral Brian Salerno, Deputy Commandant of the Coast Guard for Operations, and others.

With the National Workshop as the launching point, the National Ocean Council will continue to work with their State, Tribal, and local partners as well as stakeholders and members of the public to ensure a flexible, bottoms-up planning effort that builds upon existing regional and local efforts.

The event was opened and closed with a tribal blessing song and closing ceremony by the Honorable Micah McCarty, Chairman of the Makah Tribal Council and Vice-Chair of the National Ocean Council's Governance Coordinating Committee (GCC).

The workshop was part of a growing conversation among our part-



Smaller groups met together with facilitators and experts to discuss issues and conduct simulation CMSP scenario exercises.

ners and stakeholders in the Nation's regions to establish regional planning bodies that will work collaboratively to develop comprehensive regional coastal and marine spatial plans. Among the key issues discussed at the workshop were:

- The importance of science and evidence-based decisions and traditional knowledge and experience in advancing CMSP;
- How best to engage existing local and regional entities in the planning process;
- How to design incentives that will spur implementation of CMSP; and
- How to strike the right balance between the need for regional flexibility and consistency with national CMSP goals and principles.

This was just the beginning of a discussion to ensure the future health of the ocean, coasts and Great Lakes. Regional workshops will also be held across the country in the months ahead to build on the progress made last month. The National Ocean Council will be using the many suggestions proffered during the workshop, along with advice gathered from the contin-

ued dialogue with partners and stakeholders to further inform the establishment of regional planning bodies.

More than 30 Interior staff worked with staff from the National Ocean Council and other federal agencies to help plan and host this event. Interior staff helped design the agenda and workshop contents, served as speakers, panelists, experts, facilitators, and facility hosts.

The National Ocean Council is working to synthesize lessons learned and comments received during the Workshop and will publish a formal National Workshop Report summary by late summer.

You can access presentation materials from the National CMSP Workshop at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/cmsp-workshop>.

Those wishing to view the different plenary sessions webcasted during the public session of the National Workshop should visit <http://www.livestream.com/interior> under the "Latest Videos" banner.

Coastal America Presents Eel River Headwater Restoration Project with Award

Interior's partnership with Coastal America's Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) celebrated another successful restoration project at the Eel River headwaters in Massachusetts. On June 17, 2011, Coastal America recognized the accomplishments of a special team that completed river and wetland restoration activities in the headwaters of the Eel River, a small, spring-fed system that eventually drains to Plymouth Harbor, Mass. The project made dramatic improvements to habitats for fish and wildlife. This project helps the Eel River local ecology be more resilient, and enhances public use of conservation land.

Coastal America recognized Eric Derleth, Dan Leahy, Andrew Major and Andrew Milliken all of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service along with members of partner organizations, including the Town of Plymouth, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Massachusetts DFG Division of Ecological Restoration, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, MA Department of Environmental Protection, Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Inter-fluve, Inc., Sumco Eco-Contracting LLC, Horsley Witten Group, and A.D. Makepeace.

Eileen Sobeck, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, presented the awards.



Eileen Sobeck recognizing the efforts of the Eel River restoration team during the awards presentation ceremony.

The Coastal America Partnership was launched in 1991, and formalized in 1992, with a Memorandum of Understanding signed by nine sub-cabinet level agency representatives. These representatives committed their agencies to work together and integrate their efforts with state, local and nongovernmental activities. The CWRP program creates a way for environmentally responsible companies to reach out to their communities. It allows private companies to make voluntary donations of funds or in-kind services to a non-profit organization. These donations are then used to help support coastal habitat restoration or public education projects.

To learn more about Coastal America: <http://cwrp.org/>



The newly restored Eel River headwaters. Recipients of the Coastal America Partnership Award.

Science Informing Coastal Planning

New publications highlight examples of Interior's science and expertise for enhancing coastal planning decisions

The Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association featured USGS science on sea-level rise and coastal hazards as their cover story for their *Florida Planning* Spring 2011 newsletter.

The article examines the threat that increased sea levels in Florida pose for planning. Challenges such as how to plan in coastal areas, how to increase resilience to storms and higher water levels, how to mitigate potential shoreline retreat, and how to adapt to changing ecosystems were discussed.

http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/documents/2011_04_SpringFloridaPlanningApr21.pdf

In a report produced as part of the USGS's National Assessment of Shoreline Change project, USGS scientists found that over the past 150 years, 68 percent of New England and Mid-Atlantic beaches are eroding. Although coastal change is highly variable, erosion hazards are widespread. Read the press release: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2707>

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2010/1118/>

A new report from USGS and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) summarizes the proceedings from a two-day workshop on coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) convened on December 1–2, 2010. The workshop was held by and for Interior representatives and several key non-Interior participants with roles in CMSP.

The meeting was a step toward clarifying national perspectives and consequences of the National Ocean Policy for the Western U.S. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2011/1152/>

Through continued scientific work and planning, coastal communities can determine the best ways to adapt to and reduce coastal vulnerability.

Arctic Science Needed for Informed Decisions

In response to a request from Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, USGS released the report evaluating science needs for better informing decisions regarding oil and natural gas exploration and development in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas off Alaska.

A fact sheet on the Arctic study is available at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011/3048>

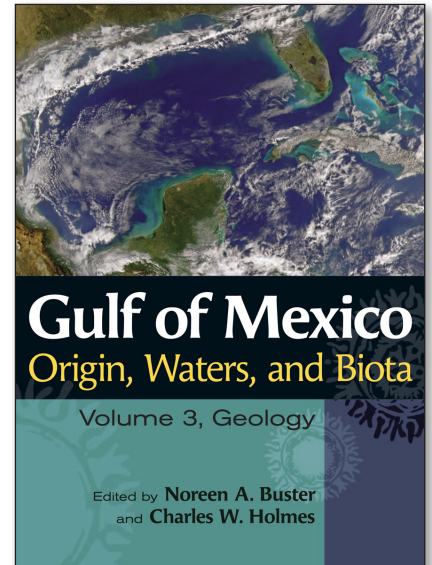
The report is available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1370>

USGS Aquatic Invasives Database Enters the World of Twitter!

The Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) Program has created a Twitter account as an extension of the NAS Alert System. The Twitter account will broaden the reach of the program while allowing users to easily keep up with new species introductions in the United States. This Twitter feed can be found at: http://www.twitter.com/USGS_NAS.

New Reference for Baseline Information on Geological Framework of the Gulf of Mexico

Two USGS scientists edited the continuation of a landmark scientific reference series on Gulf of Mexico Studies.



Gulf of Mexico Origin, Waters, and Biota, Volume 3, Geology is the newest addition to the Gulf of Mexico series. It provides the latest comprehensive description of the geology of the Gulf of Mexico Basin.

The book addresses the geologic history, recent depositional environments, and processes offshore and along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. It also features USGS and other coastal and marine research.

The reference will provide important background information for future Gulf of Mexico research.



Capitol Hill Oceans Week 2011

Laura Davis, Secretary Salazar's Chief of Staff, opened the conference introducing Capitol Hill Oceans Week's 2011 theme, *American Prosperity and Global Security: Ocean Solutions for the 21st Century*. The event was held June 7-9, 2011, in Washington, DC.

Davis was joined by other senior leaders sharing perspectives from Departments of Transportation, Energy, Agriculture, NOAA, National Ocean Council, the Coast Guard and Lockheed Martin. They discussed the national need to preserve ocean resources for the current and future benefit of the United States.

Walter Cruickshank, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and En-



forcement (BOEMRE), was a panelist for the session, "Fueling the Nation: Looking Ahead to a Secure American Energy Supply Chain," a discussion concerning the ocean's role in the United States' energy supply chain, focusing on threats

and through supporting the conference web page. Interior staff joined in the CZ11 Opening Plenary "Winds of Change: Charting the Future of our Oceans and Great Lakes" and Focus Sessions: "Help Us Paint a Picture: Illustrating the National Ocean Policy Vision" and "Making Gulf Prosperity Gumbo."

to American energy security that could endanger global stability.

Davis' presentation and others are available online at the conference website: <http://www.nmsfocean.org/chow-2011-agenda>

Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) is an annual event that brings together Members of Congress and Congressional staff; federal, state, and local government institutions; and experts from industry, academia, and the nonprofit community to shape marine policy discussions and engage in lively conversation about current ocean and coastal issues.

It is held in conjunction with World Oceans Day and anchored by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's annual Leadership Awards.

Setting Sail for the Winds of Change, Interior Co-Hosts Coastal Zone 11

The Coastal Zone 11 (CZ11) Conference, July 17-21, in Chicago, Illinois is the 17th consecutive biennial conference of what has become the largest gathering of ocean and coastal management professionals. CZ11 brings together scientists, policymakers, federal and state officials and nonprofit and industry leaders discussing the "Winds of Change" for managing our coastal resources. Four major themes and four focus areas are designed to engage participants across a wide range of perspectives.

The Interior Oceans team has planned the conference along with other major co-hosts: NOAA, EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Nature Conservancy, and the

State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

More than 60 Interior staff participated, representing a wide variety of Great Lakes, Ocean and Coastal activities with presentations, exhibits, and field trips highlighting research expertise and resource management in the Great Lakes



<http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm>

**--Micronesia Meeting
September 13-16, 2010**

The US Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) met in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The meeting included public meetings on September 14-16 and several side meetings and workshops with the primary purpose of taking action on key issues related to coral reef conservation.

USCRTF members shared recent accomplishments, existing challenges, and needs addressing coral reef research and conservation issues locally and globally. Much of the content and discussion focused on watersheds, partnerships, the Micronesia Challenge, and the National Ocean Policy (NOP).

A pre-meeting on Guam, September 10-11, provided a forum for discussing marine resource issues related to the military buildup as US Marines relocate from Okinawa, Japan to Guam.

**--Washington, DC Meeting
February 24, 2011**

Interior hosted the February 24, 2011 USCRTF meeting in Washington, D.C.. Secretary Ken Salazar and two USCRTF Governors provided remarks. Michael Weiss, Deputy Associate Director for Oceans and Coastal Policy and presented the keynote address on how the USCRTF is engaging with the National Ocean Policy.

The USCRTF selected Ka'anapali, Maui in Hawaii as the priority Pacific watershed to be addressed through a USCRTF place-based partnership. Multiple agencies will be collaborating with local orga-



Governor Benigno Fitial of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) makes his opening remarks to the USCRTF and public at the Business Meeting. Front row, left to right: Governor Togiola Tulafono of American Samoa, Governor Benigno Fitial, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Eileen Sobeck of DOI Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Back row, left to right: Lelei Peau of American Samoa, Fran Castro of CNMI, Andrew Gude of USFWS, and Steve Thur of NOAA.

nizations on the partnership. The USCRTF passed Resolution 25.1 outlining how the USCRTF will engage with the National Ocean Council and contribute to the NOP.

The USCRTF is working to ensure that coral reef ecosystem conservation is an integral part of the interagency and intergovernmental activities, in line with three major NOP priority objectives:

- **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification**
- **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration**
- **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land.**

The USCRTF is committed to engaging its members and ensuring participation and involvement of both Federal and State /Territory representatives with activities to inform the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) process.

**Upcoming: Florida Meeting
October 18-21, 2011**

The next USCRTF meeting, “Integrating Management of the Florida Reef Tract” will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in conjunction with the 2nd Reef Resilience Conference, October 18-21, 2011. Topics will include CMSP, Water Management and coral reef restoration.

Learn more about the Coral Reef Task Force: <http://www.coralreef.gov/>



A field trip to Laolao Bay Watershed highlighted watershed conservation projects to protect the coral reefs.

Interior's Multi-Bureau Role as a member of the US Coral Reef Task Force:

As a co-lead of the US Coral Reef Task Force with NOAA, Interior's bureaus conserve coral reef ecosystem resources:

The Fish and Wildlife Service manages 15 coral reef National Wildlife Refuges and 4 National Marine Monuments which represent the largest and most ecologically comprehensive series of fully-protected marine areas under unified conservation management in the world.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement has sponsored long-term monitoring in the coral reef ecosystem of the Flower Garden Banks located in the Gulf of Mexico.

The National Park Service has 10 National Parks in the Pacific, Florida and Caribbean with coral reef ecosystems.

The Office of Insular Affairs, through its Coral Reef Initiative, funds coral reef conservation and management projects in the US insular areas.

The U.S. Geological Survey developed a "Strategic Science for Coral Ecosystems 2007-2011," a comprehensive planning document encompassing marine reserves and reef structure, pollution and local impacts, and responses to global change.

Learn more: <http://www.coral-reef.gov/intro/coralpupdated.pdf>

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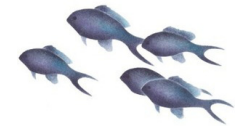
Marine debris, such as derelict fishing gear, washes ashore and litters shorelines (image from Hawaiian Islands).

Gyre searching for squid and clusters of fish eggs. In some areas of the gyre, plastic debris is more plentiful than food. The seabirds return to their nests to feed their chicks a meal that often consists of indigestible plastic items. The plastic accumulates in the chicks' stomachs and can prevent them from eating or in some cases can result in a lethal blockage or rupture of their digestive tract. Thousands of Laysan albatross chicks die each year at Midway with stomachs full of plastic. This grisly fact becomes obvious as the dead chicks decompose and desiccate leaving behind only a pile of bones, feathers, and plastic. Photos of these albatross are often cited as evidence of the amount of plastic in the North Pacific Gyre. The photos have also become a driving force behind the efforts to educate the public and prevent marine debris.

Approximately 80% of marine debris originates on land. All of the

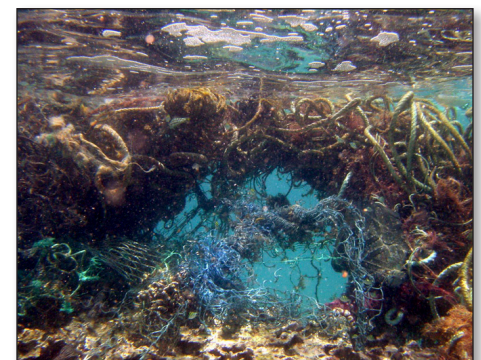
conference attendees agreed that in order to solve the problem of marine debris, we must first prevent the debris from entering the ocean.

One of the outcomes of the conference was the Honolulu Strategy. The Honolulu Strategy sets forth a results-oriented framework of action with the overarching goal of reducing impacts of marine debris over the next 10 years. This goal will be achieved through the collective action of committed stakeholders at global, national, regional, local, and individual levels. The Honolulu Strategy is being developed by debris managers and practitioners around the globe. To learn more about the outcomes of the 5IMDC or to read the Honolulu Strategy go to: <http://www.5imdc.org/>



The Ocean Alaska Science and Learning Center recently released a new video in its "Field Notes" series highlighting debris removal activities in the Kenai Fjords National Park.

Watch the video here: <http://www.vimeo.com/24321624>



Fish-eye view of floating plastic marine debris.

The Treasures of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve Gulf of Mexico

<http://www.nps.gov/jela/index.htm>

The Surfing Bison is a regular feature that explores Interior's Coastal, Ocean and Great Lakes topics found on the internet.

The Surfing Bison



By Ilana Kerner

William Faulkner wrote, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." In south Louisiana, historic events have occurred around every corner and down every bayou. The skills and traditions of previous generations are revered as communities are adapting to life in a new century.

The six sites of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve represent a treasure trove of cultural and historical coastal resources. People from nearly every country, ethnic group, language, and religion have come to the lower Mississippi River delta, leaving traces of their culture. The Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve protects these rich resources that include a variety of coastal habitats, battlefields, cemeteries and the historic French Quarter in New Orleans, which serves as the park's visitor center. Celebrate the history and diverse cultures of the Mississippi Delta region at this coastal National Park.



The Preserve sign welcomes the visitor to the watery world of the Barataria Preserve.



Boardwalk trails allow visitors access to the swamp's underwater world. Here students explore with dip nets.

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve includes six sites:

- ◆ The Acadian Cultural Center
- ◆ The Prairie Acadian Cultural Center
- ◆ The Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center
- ◆ The Barataria Preserve
- ◆ The Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery,
- ◆ The historic French Quarter



Students learn about Louisiana's rich cultural history outside the classroom.