

New York/ New Jersey Bight Oceans Initiative: A Workshop to Create a Seamless Network of Protected Shores

May 13th & 14th, 2008



Rutgers University Inn and Conference Center
New Brunswick, NJ

Agenda

Vision Statement: The National Park Service (NPS), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMS), and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) share a common goal of conserving sensitive coastal and marine resources and ecosystems through the management of marine sanctuaries, national parks and coastal areas, estuarine research reserves and national wildlife refuges. To this end, cooperative conservation efforts by these agencies will enhance their abilities to protect and conserve natural and cultural marine resources. The creation of a seamless network of protected shores will establish a working relationship at the national, regional and local levels and will facilitate inter-agency communications and coordination of programs while providing a means to share knowledge, and resources. The following outcomes will be achieved: 1) improved management and operational efficiencies; 2) increased understanding if important natural and cultural resources within the areas managed; 3) increased effectiveness of joint planning efforts; 4) enhanced public awareness and education; 5) improved law enforcement and rescue capabilities; and 6) identification of shared research and/or monitoring priorities

Tuesday – May 13th, 2008

8:30 a.m. **Participant Arrival and Check-in**
Light breakfast provided

9:00 a.m. **Welcome and Conference Overview and Objectives**

- Michael De Luca, Sr. Associate Director - Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences

- Barry Sullivan, Superintendent – Gateway National Recreation Area
- Kim Tripp, Director/Research Coordinator - Jamaica Bay Institute, Gateway National Recreation Area

9:30 a.m. **Opening Plenary: A Vision for a Seamless Network of Protected Areas –**

- Cliff McCreedy, Marine Resource Program Leader, National Park Service (WASO), Ocean and Coastal Resources Branch, Water Resources Division

10:00 a.m. **Key Aspects of a NY/ NJ Bight Seamless Network: A Panel Discussion**

- **Margaret Davidson, Coastal Service Center, NOAA – Moderator**

Seamless Network Panel:

- Barry Sullivan - National Park Service
- Deborah Long - Refuge Manager, Long Island NWR
- Erica Seiden – NOAA
- Betsy Blair – Hudson River NERR/NYDEC
- Robert Cartica- NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry

11:00 a.m. **Break**

11:15 a.m. **Real World Models of Protected Area Networks**

- Paul Siri - California State Coastal Conservancy
- Jeff Fullmer - The Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve
- Lauren Wenzel - National Marine Protected Areas Center, NOAA

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. **Results of Pre-workshop Survey**

- Scott Haag, JC NERR

Charge to the Breakout Committees

- Lisa Auermuller, JC NERR

2:00 p.m. **Commence Breakout Sessions**

Breakout Topics:

1. Research and Monitoring
2. Stewardship and Natural Resource Management (including cultural resources)
3. Outreach and Education

Facilitators:

- Kim Tripp- National Park Service
- Lisa Auermuller- Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Melanie Reding – Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Betsy Blair - Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve

Breakout Objectives:

Participants in each breakout group will:

1. Identify mutual interests and propose ideas for enhancing cooperative conservation
2. Prioritize 3-5 ideas into specific projects to accomplish mutual interests and goals

3:15 p.m.

Break

3:30 p.m.

Resume Breakouts

5:00 p.m.

Reconvene as a Full Group

- Breakout Groups will Report-out on Progress Made during Discussions

5:30 p.m.

Conclude Day 1

6:00 p.m.

Conference Reception

9:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Wednesday – May 14th, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. **Participant Arrival**
Light breakfast and coffee provided
- 9:00 a.m. **Synthesis of Day 1** - Norb Psuty, Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences
- Progress made Including Highlights from Breakout Groups
- 9:30 a.m. **Reconvene Breakout Groups**
- Breakout Objectives:**
Participants in each breakout group will be asked to:
- Identify and evaluate **internal** resources to advance ideas
 - Identify resources, **external** to the partners, needed to advance ideas
 - Clarify roles for implementation
 - Establish timelines and measurable actions for moving ideas forward
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Reconvene as a Full Group / Gallery Walk**
- 2:00 p.m. **Breakout Groups Report Out**
1. Future Actions
 2. Timelines for Progress
 3. Responsible Parties
 4. Measures of Successful Implementation
- 3:00 p.m. **Closing Plenary** –Seamless Network Panel
- **Norb Psuty, Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences – Moderator**
- Seamless Network Panel:**
- Charles Roman - National Park Service
 - Deborah Long - Refuge Manager, Long Island NWR
 - Erica Seiden – NOAA
 - Betsy Blair – Hudson River NERR/NYDEC
 - Robert Cartica- NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn