



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

Experts Release Report on the Science of Recreational Water Quality Criteria

The March 2007 Experts Scientific Workshop provided a forum where 44 U.S. and international experts discussed critical research and science needs for developing new or revised recreational ambient water quality criteria in the near-term. The report summarizing the experts' conclusions in seven topic areas is now available on the Office of Water's web site. Designed to protect swimmers from illnesses due to exposure to pathogens in recreational waters, the existing criteria are more than 20 years old. Since then, scientists have learned much about molecular biology, virology, and analytical chemistry. This new information will help us build a stronger scientific foundation for up-to-date recreational water quality criteria.

We sponsored the workshop to get individual input from the broad scientific and technical community on research and science needs to develop up-to-date, scientifically defensible criteria to protect people from exposure to contaminated recreational waters. Near-term needs were defined as specific research and science activities that could be accomplished in 2 to 3 years to support development of new or revised criteria by 2012. You can read or download the report by visiting EPA's web site at

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/recreation/>

Senate Numbers for Interior and Environment

Appropriations Now Available

Last week the Senate Appropriations Committee passed the FY 2008 Interior and Environment funding bill (S. 1696). The Senate bill would fund EPA at \$7.7 billion in fiscal 2008, splitting the difference between President Bush's request and what the House included earlier this month in their spending legislation. State and Tribal Assistance Grants would receive \$3.18 billion, \$32 million below FY2007 enacted level and \$437 million above the President's budget request for clean water and anti-pollution programs. Other programs of interest to coastal states are listed below.

The Appropriations Bills and Reports can be viewed at:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app08.html>.

Deep-Sea Images and SERPENT - The SERPENT (Scientific and Environmental ROV Partnership using Existing Industrial Technology) project, hosted at the University of Southampton, UK, collaborates with the oil and gas industry to carry out deep-sea scientific research on habitat mapping, sea-bed recovery rates from disturbance, and a variety of other experimental approaches to document biodiversity in the deep sea. The program interacts with science and conservation groups globally to transparently communicate the project to the public, increasing the awareness of fragile marine resources. Through their partnership, they gain access to industrial Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to carry out this work. One of the valuable aspects to having cameras on these robots is that they have collected hundreds of photos and videos of fascinating deep-sea creatures. These photos and videos are available online through their image and video database.

The website also hosts Education pages for teachers with lesson plans and more. The Kids pages include fun facts and interviews with the SERPENT team members and partners. The Gallery pages link to additional video and image galleries, while Publications hosts both SERPENT newsletters and a bibliography with many downloadable articles.
<http://www.serpentproject.com/>

Apprentice Ecologist Initiative - The goal of the Apprentice Ecologist Initiative is to elevate young people (including disadvantaged and at-risk youth) into leadership roles by engaging them in environmental stewardship projects. A scholarship will be awarded annually to the author of the top Apprentice Ecologist essay. Check the website for complete details and a list of upcoming events. http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer_apprentice_ecologist

Estuary Condition Reports - The National Estuary Program Coastal Condition Report presents the condition of 28 estuaries covered by National Estuary Program (NEP) based upon data collected as part of EPA's National Coastal Assessment program and data collected by individual NEPs or by NEPs in partnership with interested stakeholders, including state environmental agencies, universities, or volunteer groups. Together, this information paints a picture of the overall condition of the coastal resources of the NEP estuaries. The National Coastal Condition Report series describe the condition of 100% of all estuaries in the contiguous 48 states.
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/nepccr/index.html>

Visit the Bridge at NMEA -

As the NMEA annual conference draws near, July 23-27, 2007 in Portland, Maine, the Bridge educators are preparing some great new resources and activities to present. One presentation to look out for is "Lobster: The Price of

Deliciousness," which will walk educators through a brand new Bridge DATA (Data Analysis Teaching Activity) that explores Maine lobster catch data and evaluates fluctuations in price and landings. For those looking for a more physical oceanography-based session, look for "Ocean Observing Systems: What are they and how can I use 'em?" This session will give participants an overview of ocean observing and several strategies for integration into existing curricula. The Bridge will also have an exhibit at the conference, so stop by and pick up some more great Bridge resources.

<http://www.marine-ed.org/bridge>

Trail Accessibility Guidelines Open to Public Comment-

The Access Board in Washington, DC has released for public comment new accessibility guidelines for Federal parks and recreation areas. As proposed, the guidelines address access to new or altered trails, beaches, and picnic and camping areas on sites managed by the Federal government. Achieving accessibility in outdoor environments has long been a source of inquiry due to challenges and constraints posed by terrain, the degree of development, construction practices and materials, and other factors. In developing these guidelines, the board seeks to clarify how, and to what extent, accessibility criteria can be applied to outdoor developed areas. The deadline for comment is October 18, 2007.

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/NPRMnews6-07.html>

Water Quality Workshop – Virginia - The Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia is hosting a two-day workshop, August 7-8, 2007 in Virginia, designed to allow teachers to learn more about water quality, how to use curricular activities that use water quality data from the York River to answer applied marine science questions, and how to access both archived and real-time water quality monitoring data from throughout the Chesapeake Bay and across the nation. Teachers can participate in the first day only, or both days of the workshop.

<http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/education/index.htm#WaterQuality>

Maggie's Earth Adventures - Maggie's Earth Adventures is an educational website offered in both English and Spanish. Animated stories address environmental issues such as over-fishing, invasive species, animal habitats, and more. Online interactive games and downloadable standards-based activities in four subject areas are available. Teachers can sign up for a free weekly activity packet with self-directed lesson plans at the emergent reader, primary, and upper elementary level.

<http://www.missmaggie.org/>

Sylvan Dell Books - Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular, and have educational value. Every Sylvan Dell book contains a "For Creative Minds" educational section, with the website offering extensive book previews and teaching activities. *Ocean Seasons* provides a look at the differences between undersea seasons. Explore a world of blue crabs, terrapin turtles, river otters, dolphins, oysters and periwinkle snails through *A Day in the Salt Marsh*. Additional books cover turtles, the rain forest, octopus, and much more. <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/>

Williamston High School Low Impact Development Demonstration Project - The Williamston High School Low Impact Development project is an innovative retrofit demonstration site located in rural Martin County, NC. The project began with efforts by Dr. Tom Ward to create a sustainable community in eastern North Carolina. Dr. Ward, Sustainability Coordinator for the Town of Williamston, in cooperation North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension, wrote a grant to the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program, which was subsequently funded. The project includes installation of two rain gardens, permeable pavement, a grassed swale, a riparian buffer, and a water harvesting system to capture runoff from the rooftop of the Vocational Agriculture Building. The integrated management practices were installed as a part of a planning and development technique called Low Impact Development (LID). LID seeks to mimic the natural hydrology of a site by encouraging infiltration (allowing storm water runoff to soak into the ground). The project included many partners, especially noted is the Mid-East RC&D, who provided the educational signage for each of the practices.



Rain Garden #1 (Before)



(After)



Rain Garden #2 (Before)



(After)



Traditional Asphalt Pavement



Permeable Pavement Installation



Stream bank: Very Little Riparian Corridor



Installation of Riparian Buffer



Erosion-Bus Parking Lot



Grassed Swale for Infiltration



Area for Cistern Installation (Before)



Cistern Installation

Upcoming APNEP Meetings: Citizens' Advisory Committee, July 25th, Northampton County Cooperative Extension Service Building, Jackson, NC; Science & Technical Advisory Committee, August 17th, VA Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA; SAV Partners' Meeting, August 22nd, ECU Greenville Center. For more information on these meetings, contact Joan Giordano at (252) 948-3825 or joan.giordano@ncmail.net

Until Next Time...

Joan Giordano
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June 2007