

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**  
**INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR MARINE EDUCATORS**

**AUGUST 2008**

This update is provided with support from NOAA's Office of Education and by the National Marine Protected Areas Center to share information pertinent to the marine educator community. It is intended to encourage exchange of information and programs. We hope that it will also promote collaboration among the different educators addressing similar issues in their programs.

Please share this email with your colleagues and constituents. If you request materials or respond to a request for information, please mention that you learned about it from NOAA's Information Exchange.

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Collected archives of the information presented in past newsletters are available at [http://mpa.gov/helpful\\_resources/education\\_training.html](http://mpa.gov/helpful_resources/education_training.html). Contact the editor directly at [phyllis.dermer@noaa.gov](mailto:phyllis.dermer@noaa.gov), or by phone at (865) 932-5074, to discuss further enhancements or to contribute information for future issues.

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**REQUESTS**

**Draft Education Strategic Plan for Comment**

NOAA is revising its Education Strategic Plan. NOAA recently received broad legislative authority from Congress through the America COMPETES Act to develop, support, promote, and coordinate education activities to enhance public awareness and understanding of the ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, and atmospheric science. The draft plan establishes the goals for NOAA education for the next twenty years, as specified by the America COMPETES Act. All stakeholders and users are encouraged to review the plan and provide comments - all comments are welcome and should be received by August 29, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Faught at [Jennifer.Faught@noaa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Faught@noaa.gov).  
[http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/draft\\_ed\\_plan.html](http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/draft_ed_plan.html)

## **Notable Reference**

### **Journal of Coastal Research**

The Coastal Education and Research Foundation has released a special summer 2008 issue of its on-line journal, *The Journal of Coastal Research*, devoted entirely to research conducted in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The special issue, *Research and Monitoring of NERRS Aquatic Ecosystems*, focuses on biological monitoring and studies of the linkages between physical and biological components of estuarine ecosystems. Topics include water quality changes associated with hurricanes; concurrent assessments of eelgrass beds and salt marsh communities; effects of removing invasive Australian pines on incubation temperatures in loggerhead turtle nests; and environmental factors affecting summertime eelgrass diebacks in the lower Chesapeake Bay.

<http://www.jcronline.org/perlserv/?request=get-toc&issn=1551-5036&volume=55&issue=sp1&ct=1>

## **MESSAGE FROM THE BRIDGE**

### **See the New Bridge**

The Bridge celebrated its tenth birthday by revamping the look of the website. Unveiled at this year's NMEA conference, the Bridge remains the educators' choice for ocean science resources, with over 1000 teacher-reviewed websites and easy-to-use navigation. And now it features even more user-friendly, easy-to-navigate utilities and a beautiful, updated look. Ocean science educators will find dynamic resource pages, a more powerful search engine, and mouse-over navigation menu. The Bridge was originally unveiled at the 1998 NMEA conference in Puerto Rico, so what a better place to show off the new design than NMEA 2008? Conference-goers were treated to delicious Bridge birthday cake and three great concurrent sessions featuring several Bridge classroom activities and labs. The Bridge thanks all of the educators and scientists who have used and contributed to the online ocean science resource over the years.

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

## **GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **California B-WET Grants**

The NOAA California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program announces the availability of funds for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. Priorities for funding are Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences for students (K-12) and Professional Development for teachers (K-12) throughout the watersheds of San Francisco Bay, Monterey Bay, and Santa Barbara Channel. The deadline for submission is October 6, 2008.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/bwet/welcome.html>

### **CSCOR Funding**

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Sciences/Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (NCCOS/CSCOR) announces a Notice of Funding Availability for financial assistance for two project grants and cooperative agreements. Program 1 is the Regional Ecosystem Prediction Program on Coral Reef Ecosystem Studies From Science to Conservation: Linking Coral Reefs, Coastal Watersheds and their Human Communities in the Pacific Islands. Program 2 is the Northern Gulf of Mexico

Ecosystems and Hypoxia Assessment Program. The deadlines for proposals are in October, 2008. See the website for full details.

<http://www.cop.noaa.gov/opportunities/grants/fundingarchive/fy2009.html>

### **Earth Science Week Contests**

The theme for Earth Science Week, October 12-18, 2008, is *No Child Left Inside*. The American Geological Institute is sponsoring the following contests for students to get involved in Earth Science Week.

- Earth Science Beyond your Front Door Photography Contest
- Studying Our Earth Visual Arts Contest
- Earth Connections Essay Contest

The deadline for entry is October 17, 2008.

<http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/index.html>

### **General Coral Reef Conservation Grants**

The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program announces the availability of funding for General Coral Reef Conservation Grants for FY09. Projects funded through the program support on-the ground efforts that: help preserve, sustain, and restore the condition of coral reef ecosystems; promote the wise management and sustainable use of coral reef resources; increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their conservation; and develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats to such ecosystems. The deadline for application is November 3, 2008. Note: if you have trouble with the direct link, the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number is NMFS-HCPO-2009-2001494.

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=LL2HSY2P2vgtg3jr0vyXJrtWFnfKTYG2YLpTPG1QIXcn7Tb5rpg2!-2120833633?oppld=42306&flag2006=false&mode=VIEW>

### **Global Climate Change Education Project**

NASA's Office of Education, in cooperation with NASA's Science Mission Directorate, is soliciting proposals for the NASA Global Climate Change Education project. The project is designed to improve the quality of global climate change and Earth system science education at the elementary, secondary, and undergraduate levels. Each funded proposal is expected to take advantage of NASA's unique contributions in climate science to enhance students' academic experiences and/or to improve educators' abilities to engage and stimulate their students. The Notice of Intent is due August 29, 2008.

<http://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/summary.do?method=init&solId=%7BA0A2FB8B-E96B-7579-5530-2709EE450F3F%7D&path=open>

### **Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program**

The purpose of the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program is to award fellowships to eligible students of superior ability, selected on the basis of demonstrated achievement, financial need, and exceptional promise, to undertake graduate study in specific fields in the arts, humanities, and social sciences leading to a doctoral degree or to a master's degree in those fields in which the master's degree is the terminal highest degree awarded in the selected field of study at accredited institutions of higher education. Fields include arts, communications and media, political science, public policy, and more. The deadline for application is September 4, 2008.

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2008-3/072108c.html>

### **Hawai'i Ocean Guardian Kid's Club and Contest**

U.S. Students in grades K-8 can participate in an ocean reef-themed contest presented by Outrigger Hotels and Resorts in collaboration with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. The Hawai'i Ocean Guardians Kid's Club and Contest is part of the 2008 International Year of the Reef and encourages youngsters to express their insights and observations about the ocean and sensitive coral reef ecosystems through the creation of original stories, poetry or works of art. The deadline for entries is August 29, 2008.

[http://www.nmsfocean.org/og\\_contest.asp](http://www.nmsfocean.org/og_contest.asp)

### **Magic Porthole Environment Achievement Contest**

Horizon International offers Magic Porthole's First Environment Achievement Contest in honor of the International Year of the Reef 2008. Prize winners will be chosen for best efforts and the impact of their actions; there are three categories based on age. The deadline for submission is October 31, 2008.

<http://www.magicporthole.org/contests.html>

### **Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation Grants**

K-12 teachers worldwide are invited to apply for grants to develop or implement environmental curricula that integrate hands-on ecology exercises into the classroom. To facilitate learning and student empowerment, environmental curricula should be holistic and strive to synthesize multiple levels of learning (facts, concepts, and principles), often including experiential integrated learning and problem solving. The application deadline is September 27, 2008.

<http://www.mgaef.org/grants.html>

### **Nestle Very Best in Youth Program**

The Nestle Very Best in Youth Program honors young people ages 13-18 who have excelled in school and who are making their community and the world a better place. The deadline for entry is November 20, 2008.

<http://www.nestle-verybestinyouth.com/OnlineApplication/OnlineApplication.aspx>

### **Ocean Exploration Funding**

The NOAA Ocean Exploration Program is pleased to announce three FY09 Office of Ocean Exploration funding opportunities. Funding is available in three categories: Ocean Exploration, Marine Archeology, and Education and Outreach. The deadline for pre-proposals is August 29, 2008.

[http://www.explore.noaa.gov/ao\\_kit](http://www.explore.noaa.gov/ao_kit)

### **Pay It Forward Mini-Grants**

Pay It Forward Mini-Grants are designed to fund one-time-only service-oriented projects identified by youth as activities they would like to perform to benefit their school, neighborhood, or community. Projects must contain a "pay it forward" focus – that is, they must be based on the concept of one person doing a favor for others, who in turn do favors for others, with the results growing exponentially – to be considered in the grant making process. Grant applications are reviewed and considered by a selection committee three times a year; the next deadline is September 15, 2008.

<http://payitforwardfoundation.org/educators/grant.html>

### **President's Environmental Youth Awards**

The President's Environmental Youth Awards program recognizes young people for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. The program is available to individuals, classes, and youth groups. Awards are presented in each of the EPA regions, and one project from each region is presented with a national award. Regional applications are due by October 31, 2008.

<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya/index.html>

### **Project Aware Kids IYOR 2008 Art Contest**

Project Aware is celebrating the International Year of the Reef 2008 with an art contest, *Celebrate the Reef - Every Act Counts*. Children 12 and younger from around the world can celebrate the beauty and diversity of coral reefs through their art. The deadline for submission is October 2, 2008.

[http://www.projectaware.org/kids/html/iyotr08\\_artcontest.asp](http://www.projectaware.org/kids/html/iyotr08_artcontest.asp)

### **RGK Foundation Grants**

RGK Foundation awards grants in the broad areas of Education, Community, and Medicine/Health from non-profit organizations. The Foundation's primary interests within education include programs that focus on formal K-12 education (particularly mathematics, science and reading), teacher development, literacy, and higher education. The foundation no longer accepts unsolicited grant proposals; all applicants must complete an electronic Letter of Inquiry from the Web site as the first step. Letters of Inquiry are accepted year-round.

<http://www.rgkfoundation.org/guidelines.php#programs>

### **Siemens Competition**

The Siemens Foundation is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing scholarships and increasing access to higher education for talented mathematics, science, engineering, and technology students in the United States. In partnership with the College Board, the foundation offers the Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology, encouraging students to undertake individual or team research projects which foster intensive research that improves students' understanding of the value of scientific study and informs their consideration of future careers in these disciplines. The deadline for submission is October 1, 2008.

<http://www.collegeboard.com/siemens/index.html>

### **Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge**

The Siemens Foundation, Discovery Communications, and the National Science Teachers Association have joined together to inspire student achievement in sustainability through a comprehensive education initiative, the *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge*. The challenge will engage science teachers and allow students the opportunity to think like scientists, learn more about key environmental issues, and to develop critical-thinking skills that will help them to make informed decisions regarding stewardship of the planet. Sign up for notification and details.

<http://www.wecanchangetheworldchallenge.com/>

### **Trash to Treasure Competition**

One man's trash is another's treasure. The Design Squad *Trash to Treasure Competition* challenges entrants to recycle, reuse, and re-engineer everyday materials into out-of-the-box inventions. The deadline for entry is August 31, 2008.

<http://www.bkfk.com/Modules/Competition/Competition.aspx?Section=buildit>

### **Youth Video Essay Contest**

This competition, sponsored by Daisy/Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, offers students age 10-18 the opportunity to create short video essays and post them online for the world to see. The videos should communicate how safe, ethical hunting and shooting, spending time in the outdoors, or conserving and appreciating wildlife and nature has positively impacted their lives. The deadline for entry is January 1, 2009.

[http://www.daisy.com/daisy\\_rmef.html](http://www.daisy.com/daisy_rmef.html)

## **INTERNSHIPS AND TEMPORARY OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Development of Biodiversity Education Materials.**

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has tendered a Request for Proposal for the development of public awareness materials on biodiversity to foster public awareness and education in the OECS Member States. The materials include a booklet on the ecological, social, and economic significance of biodiversity and two thematic posters on biodiversity. The project is scheduled to run August 30, 2008 through February 13, 2009.

Contact Mr. Keith E. Nichols at [kenichols@oecs.org](mailto:kenichols@oecs.org), copied to Ms. Susanna De Beauville-Scott [sscott@oecs.org](mailto:sscott@oecs.org) and [pwardrope@oecs.org](mailto:pwardrope@oecs.org)

## **CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Earth System Science Course - Online**

SCED 507 is an Earth system science course designed for middle school teachers, offered this fall through Texas A&M University–Texarkana. Students develop Earth system analyses in relation to specific environmental events; create collaborative, inquiry-based classroom applications; and use technology as a learning and teaching tool for grades 5-8 students. This course is built around the study of environmental events such as the Larsen Ice Shelf disintegration, Hurricane Katrina, and more. Students will also learn to use Internet resources and to interact with others in a virtual community of teachers and learners to focus on content, pedagogy and technology integration. In-state scholarships (Texas) are available for Fall 2008.

Contact David Allard, [David.Allard@tamut.edu](mailto:David.Allard@tamut.edu)

### **EETAP Fall Courses - Online**

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) offer the following online fall courses

- Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation, September 8-December 5, 2008
- Fundamentals of Environmental Education, September 8 - November 28, 2008
- Leadership Development in Natural Resources: Strategic Planning and Implementation, September 22-November 21, 2008

Hurry, the deadlines for application are approaching.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetap/index.aspx>

### **Field Trip Basics and Curriculum Connections - Illinois**

The Shedd Aquarium offers the free workshop, Field Trip Basics and Curriculum Connections, for K-8th grade teachers, every third Thursday in the fall, starting

September 18, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois. Teachers will learn strategies for planning a focused and successful field trip, practice creating a pre-trip lesson plan, and more. Contact Amy Christiansen at [AChristian@sheddaquarium.org](mailto:AChristian@sheddaquarium.org)

### **Learning Ocean Science through Ocean Exploration - Various**

NOAA's Ocean Exploration Program and partners will offer introductory Learning Ocean Science through Ocean Exploration professional development workshops for grade 5-12 science teachers, with follow-up workshops at later dates. Participants will receive the curriculum with CD-ROM's, certificates of participation, and more. Contact the noted educator for registration and more information.

- San Diego, California with SeaWorld Adventure Camp, September 20, 2008; deadline for registration is August 29, 2008. Contact Adrienne Marriott at [Creec9a@hotmail.com](mailto:Creec9a@hotmail.com)
- Norfolk, Virginia with the National Maritime Center and Norfolk Public Schools, September 27, 2008; deadline for registration is September 8, 2008. Contact Veronica Haynes at [yhaynes@nps.k12.va.us](mailto:yhaynes@nps.k12.va.us)
- New Orleans, Louisiana with Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, October 11, 2008; deadline for registration is September 26, 2008. Contact Gail Gainey at [ggainey@AudubonInstitute.org](mailto:ggainey@AudubonInstitute.org)
- Charleston, South Carolina South with the Carolina Aquarium, October 18, 2008; deadline for registration is October 10, 2008. Contact Brian Thill at [BThill@scaquarium.org](mailto:BThill@scaquarium.org)
- Chicago, Illinois with John G. Shedd Aquarium, November 15, 2008; the deadline for registration is October 31, 2008. Contact Amy Christiansen at [AChristian@sheddaquarium.org](mailto:AChristian@sheddaquarium.org)

### **MS PHD'S Professional Development Program**

NSF and NASA support the Minorities Striving and Pursuing Higher Degrees of Success in Earth System Science (MS PHD'S) Professional Development Program. The program provides professional development experiences that facilitate the advancement of minorities committed to achieving Earth system science careers. The program includes mentoring and networking activities for minority undergraduate and graduate Earth system science and engineering majors; and provides a supportive environment in which participants develop strategies and professional skills necessary to excel in Earth system science and engineering fields. The deadline for application is September 1, 2008.

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

### **2008 NAI National Workshop**

The National Association of Interpreters 2008 National Workshop will reveal a bounty of natural and cultural riches, November 11-15, 2008 in Portland, Oregon. The workshop theme, *Sustaining the Circle*, refers not only to the role of interpretation in promoting a positive conservation ethic, but alludes to widening the circle of interpreters.

<http://interpnet.com/workshop/>

### **NSTA – NSDL Web Seminars - Online**

The National Science Teachers Association and the National Science Digital Library (NSDL) will partner once again, offering web seminars for teacher professional development that showcases NSDL experts and resources. The presenters within the NSDL community of trusted educational and research-based organizations will share

their expertise and answer questions live during a 90-minute online program straight from your desktop. Archive versions of each presentation will be provided. The new round of webinars begins September 25, 2008; check the website for upcoming details and for archives of past seminars, including Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears, Small Creatures Under the Microscope, and more.

[http://nsdl.org/resources\\_for/k12\\_teachers/?pager=professional\\_development](http://nsdl.org/resources_for/k12_teachers/?pager=professional_development)

### **STEM Conference - Georgia**

The Georgia Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics is hosting the conference, *Accepting the STEM Challenge*, September 11-13, 2008 Atlanta, Georgia. The conference will provide K-16 STEM educators, administrators, community leaders, and others opportunities to share individual and team successes while also gaining insights on how others are addressing the challenges associated with STEM education.

<http://www.gaprism.org/stemconference/>

### **World Environmental Education Congress**

Submissions are being accepted for the 5th World Environmental Education Congress, May 10-14, 2009, in Montreal, Canada. The conference theme is *Earth, Our Common Home*. The congress invites all educators: professors, researchers, teachers, university students, community leaders, civil servants, museum and park interpreters, consultants, journalists, artists, and all other actors in environmental education. The deadline for submission is September 30, 2008.

<http://www.5weec.uqam.ca/EN/>

## **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

### **“Best” Lists**

Larry Ferlazzo, a high school English Language Learners teacher in California, has compiled lists of “best” websites, including websites to introduce environmental issues into the classroom, science websites for students and teachers, articles about education, and more.

<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2008/07/19/the-best-sites-to-introduce-environmental-issues-into-the-classroom/>

### **Coral Reef Ecosystems**

This new website from the National Park Service is a collaboration between Ocean and Coastal Resources Branch and the Office of Outreach and Education. Ten National Parks with coral reefs attract more than 1.5 million visits per year. The National Park Service is working to restore and maintain the biological and recreational values of coral reef parks. The website offers links to the parks, NPS articles about coral reefs, and more.

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/water/coralreefs/>

### **Dangers of Plastic Bags**

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program has posted a pdf of a PowerPoint presentation on the dangers of plastic bags. It discusses the problems and costs of plastic bags to the environment and bans on their use.

<http://www.mobilebaynep.com/site/Forefront/TheDangersofPlasticBags.pdf>



### **A Day in the Life of a Drop**

A Day in the Life of a Drop, from the EPA, is a set of activities designed to help students in grades 3–5 understand the connections between the source of the water they use and the ways their water use habits affect the environment and human health. Students also learn how to reduce their impacts and engage family members. Materials include a teachers' guide, student worksheets, a spreadsheet to track water use at home, and more.

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/water/drop.htm>

### **Earth - The Biography**

Earth - The Biography, from the National Geographic channel, examines how the earth was formed, and how carbon dioxide emissions are changing major ecosystems and the possible impacts on the planet. The program segments are Atmosphere, Oceans, Volcanoes, Ice, and Rare planet. A companion book to this series is also available for purchase.

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/earth-the-biography/all/00#tab-Overview>

<http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/product/1062/4260/114.html>

### **Environmental Education Resources**

The National Conservation Training Center's Division of Education Outreach of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) offers this document online. It provides listings and links to general environmental education resources, education standards and terms, newswires and FWS listservs, lists of FWS environmental educators and resources, and much more.

<http://library.fws.gov/resources.html>

### **Fire & Smoke**

A new NASA Fire and Smoke website shows latest fire views and research. Satellites, aircraft, and research know-how have created numerous cutting-edge tools to help firefighters battle wildfires and scientists understand the impact of fires and smoke on Earth's climate and ecosystems. This website brings the latest information to the public. The site includes images of fires and their associated smoke plumes in the United States and around the world as well as articles and multimedia resources.

[http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/fires/main/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/fires/main/index.html)

### **In Search of Giant Squid Curriculum Guide**

Compiled by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, NOAA's Ocean Exploration Program, and others, this curriculum is geared for 5-8 grade students with special "roadmaps" for older or younger audiences. The guide includes lesson plans, instructive websites, student worksheets, answer keys, and more.

[http://www.sites.si.edu/exhibitions/gaint\\_squid\\_curriculum\\_guide.pdf](http://www.sites.si.edu/exhibitions/gaint_squid_curriculum_guide.pdf)

### **Lionfish Invasion Newsclip**

A segment featuring research on the invasion of the Indo-Pacific Lionfish into the western Atlantic and Caribbean was featured on NBC Nightly News, June 30, 2008, and is available for viewing on this website. NBC worked closely with REEF, NOAA, the National Aquarium in Washington DC and others to produce the story.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/#25462218>

### **Live from IPY!**

Live from IPY! celebrates the International Polar Year by transporting the public to remote polar locations through live from the field calls and Internet presentations. Registration and participation is free. Upcoming presentations include archaeological research at Nuvuk on August 5, 2008 and High Arctic Change '08 from Svalbard, Norway on August 6, 2008. Previous expeditions are archived.

<http://www.polartrec.com/live-from-ipy/overview>

### **Media Watch on Climate Change**

The EcoResearch Media Watch on Climate Change provides a continuous update of media coverage on climate change and related issues from 150 news media sites.

<http://www.ecoresearch.net/climate/>

### **National Park Service Teacher Resources**

The National Park Service offers this set of educational resources which draws on national parks from the Delaware Water Gap to the volcanoes of Hawaii. The materials are specifically designed for teaching geology, but can easily be incorporated into lessons. The homepage features teacher guides and links to park programs with lessons and programs. Additional links bring visitors to information about coastal geology, soils, inventory and monitoring, and much more.

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/geology/education/>

### **Oceans for Life Lesson Plans and Videos**

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program has launched a series of marine education lesson plans highlighting cutting-edge research, maritime heritage, cultural resources, and environmental issues in the national marine sanctuaries. Designed for K-12 teachers and marine educators, the *Oceans for Life* series of lessons and videos gives students an opportunity to explore the history, biology, and ecology of the National Marine Sanctuary System. The lesson plans and complimentary short videos were developed in collaboration with National Geographic Society's Oceans for Life program and are aligned with educational standards and literacy principals.

<http://www.oceanslive.org/portal/index.php?module=pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=1&pid=293>

### **Sanctuary Science Conservation Series**

The Marine Sanctuaries Conservation Series provides a forum for publication and discussion of the complex issues the National Marine Sanctuary Program faces. Topics of published reports vary and may include descriptions of educational programs, discussions on resource management issues, and results of scientific research and monitoring projects. The latest report available for download from the website is the proceedings of a *Scientific Forum the Gulf of Mexico: The Islands in the Stream Concept* which took place in January 2008 in Sarasota, Florida. Other documents include *A Review of Marine Zones in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary* and more.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/conservation/welcome.html>

### **Shark Conservation Blog**

Shark Week on the on Discovery Channel has changed over the years, and this year they teamed up with the Ocean Conservancy to get the word out on the plight of sharks. The online blog topics include a look at the weird and wonderful Greenland shark, a campaign by Sherman's Lagoon cartoonist and shark advocate Jim Toomey, and a

review of vital rules that can help save some of the hardest hit shark species in the U.S. from overfishing. Check out the related links to a virtual shark dive and more.

[http://discovery.blogs.com/shark\\_conservation/](http://discovery.blogs.com/shark_conservation/)

### **Shedd Aquarium Activity Guides**

The Shedd Aquarium offers several Activity Guides as downloadable files. The topics include Coral Reefs, Fishes, Oceans, and more.

[http://www.sheddaquarium.org/teacher\\_resources.html](http://www.sheddaquarium.org/teacher_resources.html)

### **Simple Steps**

The Natural Resources Defense Council offers *SimpleSteps.org*, *Green Living by NRDC*, designed to help people who are looking for easy, environmentally friendly actions they can take every day to protect their health, their home, and the planet. Visitors can read topic suggestions that may take a minute, morning, or month to implement. They can also post their experiences and additional tips through a blog that acts as an archive of topics and comments.

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

### **Student Monitoring Project Catalogue**

Lynna Kauchek has compiled a listing of biological monitoring projects that allow students as volunteer monitors. Contact her for a copy of the pdf file.

Contact Lynna Kauchek at [lynnakauchek@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnakauchek@yahoo.com)

### **Understanding Sustainability**

Understanding Sustainability is a flexible, self-contained 1-2 week curriculum unit aligned with national science standards for middle school educators to teach sustainability issues from Facing the Future. This curriculum features hands-on activities that explore sustainability issues, such as energy, consumption, water scarcity, along with potential solutions. Free versions may be available for Washington and Alaska.

<http://www.facingthefuture.org/Home/CurriculumDetails/tabid/131/Default.aspx?ItemID=NATUS>

## **INITIATIVES, JOURNALS, and MORE**

### **Carbonrally**

Carbonrally is a web-based activism platform offering individuals and groups a simple and social way to have a measurable impact on climate change. The website is a place where many people can commit to small, positive actions over time. People can propose ideas for reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and the community chooses the best ideas to pursue as a team.

<http://www.carbonrally.com/>

### **Earth Science Week**

The American Geological Institute, in cooperation with NASA, USGS, National Park Service, and many others, supports Earth Science Week 2008, *No Child Left Inside*, October 12-18, 2008. Earth Science Week 2008 encourages young people to learn about the geosciences by getting away from the television, off the computer, and out of doors. Local groups, educators, and interested individuals organize celebratory events. Pre-order your 2008 kit, sign up for the newsletter, and more, through this website.

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

### **Economic Valuation of Coral Reefs in the Caribbean**

The World Resources Institute offers reports on economic valuation of coral reefs in the Eastern Caribbean, along with downloadable valuation tools. The valuations focus on the economic contribution of coral reefs through tourism and recreation, fisheries, and shoreline protection services.

<http://www.wri.org/project/valuation-caribbean-reefs>

### **InnoCentive**

The InnoCentive Open Innovation community offers problem-solvers the opportunity to earn money while solving some of the toughest problems facing the world today. There are challenges in a wide variety of disciplines, from Business and Entrepreneurship to Engineering and Life Sciences, each with a significant cash award. While there are no current marine-based challenges, the idea of open innovation with cash rewards may be of interest to some on this listserv.

<http://www.innocentive.com/>

### **Journal of Online Learning and Teaching**

The objectives of the Journal of Online Learning and Teaching are to enable faculty to use technology effectively in teaching and learning and also to enable academic programs to design and deploy academic technology. The journal is published quarterly.

<http://jolt.merlot.org/>

### **Marine Protected Areas Inventory Online**

NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior, has released the online inventory of the nation's marine protected areas (MPAs). This comprehensive inventory catalogs and classifies marine protected areas within US waters. Both tabular and GIS spatial data can be down-loaded, as well as mapping products and analysis reports created using the MPA Inventory data.

[http://www.mpa.gov/helpful\\_resources/inventory.html](http://www.mpa.gov/helpful_resources/inventory.html)

### **TerraCycle**

Earn money by recycling. Terracycle buys plastic wraps, candy wrappers, and different plastic containers from groups, schools, and fundraisers, to reuse for their business. They make everything they sell out of trash.

<http://www.terracycle.net/>

## **PERSISTENCE PAYS SUCCESS STORY**

### **Google Prohibits Ads for Products from Endangered Species**

A number of concerned web-surfers noticed ads on Google from shark fin product manufacturers. One, John Nunes, persisted in contacting Google about their policy, which resulted in the following content policy addition for all Google ads: *Advertising is not permitted for products obtained from endangered or threatened species. This includes, but is not limited to, the sale of products derived from elephants, sharks, tigers, whales, rhinoceroses, or dolphins.* While initial contact resulted in removal of the offending ad, persistence paid through broader policy change.

<http://adwords.google.com/support/bin/static.py?page=guidelines.cs&topic=9271&subtopic=9279>