



The Coastal Connection

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Coastal Legislation

H.R. 56: Gulf Coast Restoration Act

Sponsor: Steve Scalise (R-LA)

Last Major Action: Jan. 5, 2011

To provide for restoration of the coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and for other purposes.

[Summary & Status](#)

Cape Wind Wins Final Federal Permit

The nation's first offshore wind farm has won its final federal permit, 10 years after the project was proposed.

On Friday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gave the Cape Wind project a permit for emissions during construction. That came a day after Cape Wind was given a permit by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for work in navigable federal waters and to ensure it's complying with the Clean Water Act.

Neither decision was a surprise, but the permits allow the company to start construction. The company plans to start building a 130-turbine wind farm in Nantucket Sound by the end of the year and begin producing power by early 2013.

Cape Wind was proposed in 2001 and approved last year by U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

The project still faces numerous lawsuits from opponents.



Read this article on the web [here](#) or additional Cape wind articles [here](#).

Gulf Oil Spill Update



The National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill said Tuesday that the federal government needs to beef up oversight of the offshore oil and gas industry. The seven-member committee

From Last Congress

H.R. 6184: Amendment to Water Resources Development Act 2000

Sponsor: Rick Larsen (D-WA)
Last Major Action: Dec. 9, 2010

To amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to extend and modify the program allowing the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the evaluation of permits, and for other purposes.

Summary & Status

H.R. 4715: Clean Estuaries Act of 2010

Sponsor: Timothy H. Bishop (D-NY)
Last Major Action: Sept. 16, 2010

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

Summary & Status

S. 1311: Gulf of Mexico Restoration and Protection Act

Sponsor: Roger F. Wicker (R-MS)
Last Major Action: Aug. 2, 2010

A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to expand and strengthen cooperative efforts to monitor, restore, and protect the resource productivity, water quality, and marine ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico.

Summary & Status

H.R. 6353 Clean Water Affordability Act of 2010

Sponsor: Robert E. Latta (R-OH)
Last Major Action: Sept. 20, 2010

A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to assist municipalities that would experience a significant hardship raising the revenue necessary to finance projects and activities for the construction of wastewater treatment works, and for other purposes.

Summary & Status

released a set of 15 major recommendations in its final report.

The commission has already had harsh words for the oil and gas industry and its role in last April's deadly blowout in the Gulf of Mexico. But in releasing its final recommendations, commission co-chair, Bob Graham, said industry alone was not responsible for the catastrophe.

"I'm sad to say that part of the answer is the fact that our government let it happen," Graham said. "Our regulators were consistently outmatched. The Department of Interior lacked the in-house expertise to effectively enforce regulation."

One of the committee's biggest recommendations is to revamp that part of the Department of the Interior. That means, among other things, getting a safety office to rely more on science in its decisions, to pay enough to attract top-rate technical people and to be more independent than it is right now.

[Read the whole story here](#)

Mexico Unveils New Deepwater Oil Drilling Rules

Summary Report for Sub-Sea and Sub-Surface Oil and Dispersant Detection: Sampling and Monitoring

Deep Water: The Gulf Oil Disaster and the Future of Offshore Drilling (Final Report)

When it rains, the regulations pour

New Regulations in California Have An Effect

Engineers and contractors are scrambling to incorporate significant new changes to rules for managing storm water runoff during and after construction amid above-average rainfall this season.

On July 1, a major update to the state's General Construction Storm Water Permit took effect. Different from the last major update in 1999, owners of construction sites now are responsible for meeting numerical targets for runoff content; monitoring and reporting on conditions and activities before, during and after rainstorms; and leaving erosion conditions after construction equivalent to those before.

"It's a really big shift from 'do your best,' to 'meet these standards or else,'" said Hugh Linn, P.E., president of Napa-based engineering firm Riechers Spence & Associates of Napa.

[Read more here](#)



Before & after shots of erosion control upgrades

S. 3249: Predisaster Hazard Mitigation Act

Sponsor: Joseph I. Lieberman (I-CT)
Last Major Action: June 29, 2010

A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster hazard mitigation program and for other purposes.

Summary & Status

S. 3528: Coastal Jobs Creation Act of 2010

Sponsor: Olympia Snowe (R-ME)
Last Major Action: June 24, 2010

The bill would provide \$80 million per year for several years to provide employment opportunities for coastal communities.

Summary & Status

Other Articles of Interest

Farmers Group Seeks to Block EPA's Plan to Clean Chesapeake Bay

The Deeper Meaning of a Deeper Channel

Feds Urge Less Fluoride for Water Supply

Toutle Sediment-Control Measures are Being Put to the Test

Another Year of 'Drill Baby, Drill'?

17th Street Canal Homeowners Sue to Stop Floodwall Project

Schumer Calling for Tougher Action Dealing with Beach Erosion

Coastal Events

Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Conference: 24th Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology
Dates: February 9 - 11, 2011
Location: Hyatt Regency Jacksonville-Riverfront, Jacksonville, FL
[more info](#)

Association of California Water Agencies

Conference: 2011 Washington, D.C. Conference
Dates: March 1 -3, 2011
Location: Washington Court Hotel, Washington, DC
[more info](#)

American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Conference: Coastal Summit
Dates: March 1 - 3, 2011
Location: Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center, Washington, DC
[more info](#)

National Hurricane Conference

Dates: April 18 - 22, 2011
Location: Hyatt Regency Atlanta
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Marlowe & Company | 1667 K Street, NW | Suite 480 | Washington | DC | 20006