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111th Congress

September 2010

The Coastal Connection

This month's Coastal Connection is an abbreviated version. The full version will begin again next month.

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[Urgent recommendations for the president and congress on Gulf Coast resilience](#)

The top five of the report's recommendations are summarized below. To read the report in its entirety, download it [here](#).

- 1) BP should provide immediate financial assistance to nongovernmental organizations that provide disaster relief, and social services related to the oil spill, to restore their capacity to support survivors if there is a major hurricane this season.
- 2) Federal, state and local, emergency planners should immediately begin working to ensure that regional relief points of distribution and storm shelters are staffed upon activation with recovery and reentry services providers, and insurance carriers.
- 3) Insurance carriers need to conduct aggressive outreach to the homeowners and small businesses in the Gulf states to clarify what recovery of losses they should expect if they suffer damage and losses



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from a hurricane this season.

4) The federal chain of command to support response, reentry and recovery operations during combined Stafford Act and OPA90 emergencies requires immediate clarification

5) The President should immediately designate a special federal coordinator to resolve obstacles, mediate conflicts and streamline bureaucratic requirements that impede the ability of federal agencies to support and collaborate with nongovernmental organizations in providing speedy relief, reentry, and recovery to communities on the Gulf Coast.

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[House passes Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2009 \(CLEAR\)](#)

According to a summary from the [Coastal States Organization](#):

"Several amendments were offered on the floor, including language to ensure no delay in the development of ocean renewable energy resources, ensure ethics guidelines are revised for DOI employees every three years, and seek to end the federal moratorium on deepwater drilling on rigs that meet certain safety requirements. The bill did contain the Ocean Resources Conservation and Assistance (ORCA) Fund, the funds will be available to the Secretary of Commerce, subject to appropriations. The Fund provides 35% to coastal states and Indian tribes, 35% to a competitive grants program, 20% to coastal and ocean observing, and 10% to regional ocean partnerships or the regional coordination councils (established under the bill). The fund to the coastal states and territories would be allocated pursuant to the formula under the CZMA and it would be for activities to conserve, protect, maintain, and restore coastal, marine and Great Lakes ecosystems - essentially a broad range of activities. The funding to regional ocean partnerships or the coordination councils would be through a competitive grant program, again for a broad range of activities that would fall under their priority action plans. The bill also contains language to establish aforementioned regional coordination councils, extends the Secretary's review deadline for OCS exploration plans, and establishes a grant program under CZMA to develop oil spill response plans for coastal resources."

To see the Thomas summary of the bill click [here](#).

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[The Federal Response to Hurricane Earl](#)

The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Craig Fugate announced today that Federal aid is available to supplement state and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Hurricane Earl beginning on September 1, 2010, and continuing.

The President's action authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property

and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties.

To read the full Marlowe & Company legislative update click [here](#).

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[Second oil rig explodes in Gulf of Mexico](#)

Another oil rig has blown up in the Gulf of Mexico, this Vermilion 360 model is owned by Mariner Energy. U.S. Coast Guard helicopters were immediately dispatched to the scene, where 13 workers were found floating (alive) in the water around the rig. The rig is reportedly on fire, but it is being reported by ABC News that the rig wasn't drilling for oil at the time of the explosion. No information explaining the cause of the explosion has yet surfaced.

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[New Coastal Legislation](#)

NEW H.R. 6106 -- Ocean lifeguard training information clearinghouse

Sponsor: Rep Weiner, Anthony D. [NY-9]

Introduced 8/10/2010

A bill To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a clearinghouse of information on best practices for ocean lifeguard training program.

[THOMAS Bill Summary and Status](#)

To submit legislation to be included in the next issue of the Coastal Connection please complete this [brief form](#).

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[Upcoming Coastal Events](#)

Event: California and the World Oceans Conference

Date & time: September 7-10, 2010

Where: San Francisco, CA

Description: CWO '10 will seek the experience, views and innovative ideas of experts throughout California, the United States, and the international community in addressing ocean and coastal resource management issues facing California and other states and nations. The conference will provide an opportunity to bring together representatives from government, academia, industry, and the public to share ideas and formulate action strategies for the 21st century. To learn more visit <http://www.cce.csus.edu/conferences/cnra/cwo2010/index.htm>

Event: Working Waterways and Waterfronts National Symposium on Water Access

Date & time: September 27-30, 2010

Where: Portland, ME

Description: Participants in 2010 will increase awareness of the economic, social, cultural, and environmental values of waterfronts, and the important role of water-dependent uses in sustainable coastal communities. To learn more visit <http://www.wateraccessus.com/>

Event: ASBPA: Celebrating the Diversity of the Coast Conference

Date & time: October 12-15, 2010

Where: Charleston, SC

Description: The annual conference put on by ASBPA, this year's

conference will be held at the Charleston Marriott. There will be three days of coastal science, policy, technology and advocacy in Charleston, SC. A full-day short course on Tuesday afternoon and a half-day field trip of the South Carolina coast on Friday are available add-ons. To learn more visit <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=851852>

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[New Coastal Resources](#)

Ready America tips on how to create effective evacuation plans for communities in hurricane-prone areas. Available [here](#).

NOAA has launched a series of interviews the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) did with several Coastal Zone and National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Managers entitled "America's Coasts...A View from the States". To view these interviews visit [here](#).

NOAA has launched a Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Website. As the National Ocean Policy is being implemented, news on developments in coastal and marine spatial planning can be found at the website [here](#).

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