



The Coastal Connection

April 2011



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Rep. Bob Gibbs (OH)

Ranking Democrat: Rep. Tim Bishop (NY)

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What the Japan Earthquake & Tsunami

Means for the United States

The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) is responsible for the coordination and support of Federal earthquake-related activities. The earthquake in Japan confirmed the importance of proper building codes and building construction. The adoption and enforcement of an adequate building code is the most effective loss prevention measure that a State or community can adhere to. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has just completed a major rewrite of their guidance document, [Reducing the Risks of Nonstructural Earthquake Damage, FEMA E-74](#). The guidance is now far more extensive and provides protection criteria for many different components.

Other important guidances that have been prepared by FEMA and other agencies are:

- [Guidelines for Design of Structures for Vertical Evacuation from Tsunamis, FEMA P-646](#)
- [Vertical Evacuation from Tsunamis: A Guide for Community Officials, FEMA P-646a](#)



More information can also be found at the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program website [here](#) or at FEMA's website [here](#).

Corps of Engineers Budget Cannot Sustain its Mission

The National Research Council (NCR) panel warns in a report that the Corps of Engineers is being asked to tackle a growing list of complicated water resource problems with a shrinking budget. The bottom line according to NCR: The Army Corps' mission is unsustainable. The report notes that

[Submit Event](#)[Submit Coastal Information](#)**Coastal Legislation****H.R. 258: Chesapeake Bay Accountability & Recovery Act of 2011**

Sponsor: Rob Wittman (R-VA)
Last Major Action: April 7, 2011

To require the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, to require the Environmental Protection Agency to develop and implement an adaptive management plan, and for other purposes

[Summary & Status](#)**H.R. 435: National Flood Insurance Program Termination Act of 2011**

Sponsor: Candice Miller (R-MI)
Last Major Action: March 23, 2011

To terminate the National Flood Insurance Program and related mandatory purchase and compliance requirements, and for other purposes.

[Summary & Status](#)**H.R. 501: Implementing the Recommendations of the BP Oil Spill Commission Act of 2011**

Sponsor: Edward Markey (D-MA)
Last Major Action: Feb. 25, 2011

To provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, and for other purposes.

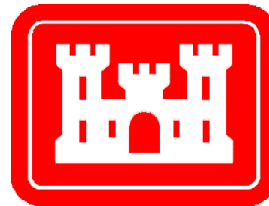
[Summary & Status](#)**H.R. 594: Coastal Jobs Creation Act of 2011**

Sponsor: Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
Last Major Action: Feb. 18, 2011

To promote coastal jobs creation, promote sustainable fisheries and fishing communities, revitalize waterfronts, and for other purposes.

in 2007, the Senate approved a \$14 billion list of water projects for the Water Resources Development Act reauthorization (WRDA). After reconciliation with the House at that time, a \$23 billion WRDA authorization had enough congressional support to override President G. W. Bush's veto and become law.

Most of those projects have yet to get funding still, an example of how lawmakers' desires have outpaced their ability to fund them. This has resulted in a \$59.6 billion backlog in authorized projects and billions more in unmet maintenance needs. The report concludes that the Corps will have to consult with a large number of stakeholder, in part because the 1986 WRDA bill required local governments and other project co-sponsors to help foot the bill for projects, forcing the Corps to focus on local demands as opposed to more comprehensive planning efforts. The report concludes that "the nation may have to consider more flexible, innovative, and lower cost solutions to achieving water-related objectives.



Read the E&E News article [here](#) (subscription) or check out the full report [here](#).

EPA Draft Clean Water Protection Guidance

In 1972, Congress passed the Clean Water Act in response to a fire on the Cuyahoga River in Ohio. The law focused on preventing pollution, to protect both fragile aquatic ecosystems and the quality of water used for human consumption. The statute additionally took measures to protect economic

"navigable" uses of waterways through the use of Constitutional language and interpretations of the Commerce Clause. Since passage of the law, the term "navigable waterways" has been broadly applied by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its regulatory capacity. Following two Supreme Court cases, *United States v. Rapanos* ("Rapanos") and *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* ("SWANCC"), the EPA issued guidance to clarify which waters can be categorized as "Waters of the United States, thereby falling under the CWA's purview. This guidance is derived from two tests developed by the Court in both *Rapanos* and *SWANCC*, with the goal of minimizing the bureaucracy involved in making jurisdictional determinations....

For more information about this issue, click [here](#).

DeMint Introduces Army Corps of Engineers

Summary & Status

H.R. 480: Gulf of Mexico Economic & Environmental Restoration Act of 2011

Sponsor: Kathy Castor (D-FL)
Last Major Action: Feb. 10, 2011

To establish programs to aid in the economic, environmental, and public health recovery of the Gulf States from the damage and harm caused by the blowout of the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon and the resulting degradation of the Gulf over time, and for other purposes.

Summary & Status

H.R. 264: Northern California Ocean & Coastal Protection Act

Sponsor: Michael Thompson (D-CA)
Last Major Action: Jan. 26, 2011

To permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties in the State of California, and for other purposes.

Summary & Status

H.R. 52: Oil Pollution Environmental Review Act

Sponsor: Gerald Connolly (D-VA)
Last Major Action: Jan. 26, 2011

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require that treatment of the issuance of any exploration plans, development production plans, development operation coordination documents, and lease sales required under Federal law for offshore drilling activity on the outer Continental Shelf as a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes.

Summary & Status

H.R. 56: Gulf Coast Restoration Act

Sponsor: Steve Scalise (R-LA)
Last Major Action: Jan. 26, 2011

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

Reform Legislation

Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) introduced the bill S. 573, the Corps of Engineers Reform Act of 2011, to overhaul how the federal government decides which harbor, bridge, or water project to fund by setting up an independent review panel. DeMint's bill would establish a Water Resources Commission, modeled on the base-closure panel that Congress set up in 1988 to decide which military facilities would be shuttered around the country. The DeMint measure would also give states more power in funding Corps projects by returning federal Harbor Maintenance Taxes to them in the form of block grants.



For more information about this issue, please check out a news article [here](#) or the bill text [here](#).

NC Beach & Inlet Management Plan Released

The North Carolina Beach & Inlet Management Plan (BIMP) was released Thursday, April 7th. The plan provides necessary information to address the natural resources, funding mechanisms, and strategies for comprehensive management of the State's ocean and inlet shorelines.

To view the full report, please click [here](#).

NC Spends \$140 Million on Projects

The State of North Carolina has reportedly spent \$140 million on repairing dozens of projects under the state Ecosystem Enhancement Program. Since the start of the latest program, "not one Transportation Improvement Project has been delayed due to a lack of mitigation," according to the previous Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

To find out more about this story, click [here](#).

Fort Meyers Beach Recovers from BP Spill

Fort Meyers Beach, FL is reporting that, one year later, it has recovered from the oil spill that occurred as a result of the explosion of the Deep Water Horizon rig. The Director of Sales and Marketing for Pink Shell Beach Resort & Spa Ellis Etter said, "This year is really busy for us we're well ahead of pace, doing better than forecast...Compared to last year at this time, we're probably about 40% more than we did last year." Governor Rick Scott also announced this week that BP is giving northwest Florida a \$30 million grant to alleviate the spill's negative impact on tourism.

Check out the whole story [here](#).

and for other purposes.

Summary & Status

S. 52: International Fisheries Stewardship & Enforcement Act

Sponsor: Daniel Inouye (D-HI)

Last Major Action: Jan. 25, 2011

To establish uniform admin. and enforcement procedures and penalties for the enforcement of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and similar statutes, and for other purposes.

Summary & Status

Marlowe & Company knows Water Resources...

But we help clients secure federal funding in other areas too

Since 1984, we have successfully assisted local governments and non-profit organizations in securing federal funding for a variety of their needs. While many know us for our expertise in water resources, we also help communities pursue funding for transportation and infrastructure, economic development, law enforcement and emergency management, natural resource protection, and grant funding. We have helped our clients secure more than \$250 million in non-water related funding since 2005 with a return on investment of about 40 to 1. Earlier this month, *The Hill* newspaper called Marlowe & Company "one of the top appropriations lobby shops in Washington."

With the changing political climate in Washington, communities will need to engage specialist who not only understand the federal system, but also have experience representing their unique issues. We are government affairs specialists with relationships in Congress and the Administration. If your community is looking for assistance in navigating the federal process, please let us know and we can discuss how we can be of assistance. You can reach us via email at marlowe@marloweco.com or by phone at (202) 775-1796 . In the meantime, please visit [Our Specialties section of our website](#) to learn more about how we have helped other communities like yours.

Coastal Events

2nd International Conference on Physical Coastal Processes, Management and Engineering

Dates: April 27 - 29, 2011

Location: University of Naples Parthenope, Campania, Italy

[more info](#)

11th Conference on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography

Dates: May 2 - 5, 2011

Location: Omni Parker House, Boston, Massachusetts

[more info](#)

11th International Coastal Symposium

Dates: May 9 - 14, 2011

Location: Radisson Blu Hotel, Szczecin, Poland

[more info](#)

2011 World Environmental & Water Resources Congress

Dates: May 22 - 26, 2011

Location: Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, California

[more info](#)

6th International Conference on Sustainable Water Resources Management

Dates: May 23 - 25, 2011

Location: Mission Inn Hotel, Riverside, California

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27th World Ports Conference

Dates: May 23 - 27, 2011

Location: BEXCO, Busan, Korea

[more info](#)

2011 Infrastructure Systems Conference

Dates: June 13 - 17, 2011

Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia

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Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference

Dates: June 26 - 29, 2011

Location: Hilton Anchorage, Anchorage, Alaska

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Marlowe & Company | 1667 K Street, NW | Suite 480 | Washington | DC | 20006