

The large whale disentanglement program thanks the **National Marine Fisheries Service** for ongoing support.

The Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation and **The Pegasus Foundation** made grants to ongoing studies and public education and outreach for public policy options relating to Nantucket Sound and surrounding waters.

CCS especially appreciates support of its infrastructure, both physical and operational, and once again thanks the **Marshall Frankel Foundation** for a grant in support of its membership development program; and **DMW Worldwide** for its generous in-kind support of the direct mail program.

Many thanks to board members **Carol Green** and **Mark Silva** for overwhelming initial support of CCS's new educational partnership with the *Spirit of Massachusetts*. And thanks to **Grace W. Allsop Foundation** for the same.

A number of nationally and locally prominent marine businesses are to be thanked for the August (and august) launching of *R/V Ibis II*, CCS's 40-foot, rapid response whale rescue vessel, which was extensively redesigned and reconstructed throughout the summer. They are: **Ambar Marine, Nauset Marine, Mercury Marine, Wynne Enterprises** and **Kingman Yacht Center**, which also provides CCS with general operating support. (*see related article for more detail*).

Staff Notes

CCS is proud to announce that **Theresa L. (Terri) Smith**, research assistant in the coastal ecology program (Cape Cod Community College, A.A. in environmental science) is the recipient of a Morris K. Udall Scholarship, awarded by the Udall Foundation in furtherance of Congressman Udall's dedication to the nation's environment, public lands, and natural resources. Terri is one of only two community college students throughout the entire United States to receive this prestigious honor, which is awarded to 80 college students on an annual basis (the other community college recipient is a classmate of Terri's at CCCC).

The humpback whale program hosted six humpback researchers from the Pacific on its annual Gulf of Maine cruise this summer in order to learn biopsy and photo-i.d. techniques. Guests included **Gabriela Diaz Eroles** and **Maria Esther Jimenez Lopez**, both of the University of Mexico at La Paz, **Mary Beth Rew**, University of California at Berkeley, **Saeko Kumagai**, University of British Columbia (who is also a former CCS intern) and **Kira Goetschius** and **Adam Pack**, both of the University of Hawaii. The program is most grateful to **David Mattila**, former CCS senior scientist, who joined the cruise as captain and researcher on sabbatical from his current position as director of research at the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary.

Meanwhile, the whale rescue team played host this fall to **Doug Coughran**, senior wildlife officer with the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management's Wildlife Protection Section in Perth, who was visiting the states as a Churchill Trust fellow. Doug spent a month both learning and teaching disentanglement techniques.

Finally, CCS is delighted to welcome home a prodigal son, **Graham Giese**, a CCS founder and Oceanographer Emeritus at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, who is rejoining CCS as a staff senior scientist. Graham will be heading up a new program on land-sea interaction in collaboration with the Cape Cod National Seashore and doing field research on coastal erosion and associated sea-level rise along the Atlantic shoreline.

COASTWATCH

is a publication of the Center for Coastal Studies, an independent non-profit, member supported organization dedicated to research, public education and conservation programs for the marine and coastal environments.

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COVER PHOTO
David Morin, CCS assistant director of whale rescue, boards Ibis II for the first time. Photo CCS Archives.

NEWSLETTER DESIGN & PRINTING:
Shank Painter Co. Inc.

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To make a donation or find out how you can contribute to Center, please call 508-487-3622 ext. 110, visit our web site www.coastalstudies.org or stop by our offices. We are open M-F, 9am to 5pm. All donations are tax deductible.

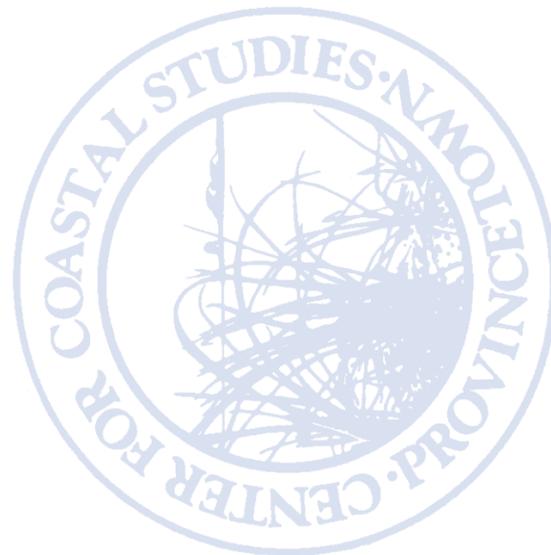
THIS ORGANIZATION IS FUNDED IN PART BY



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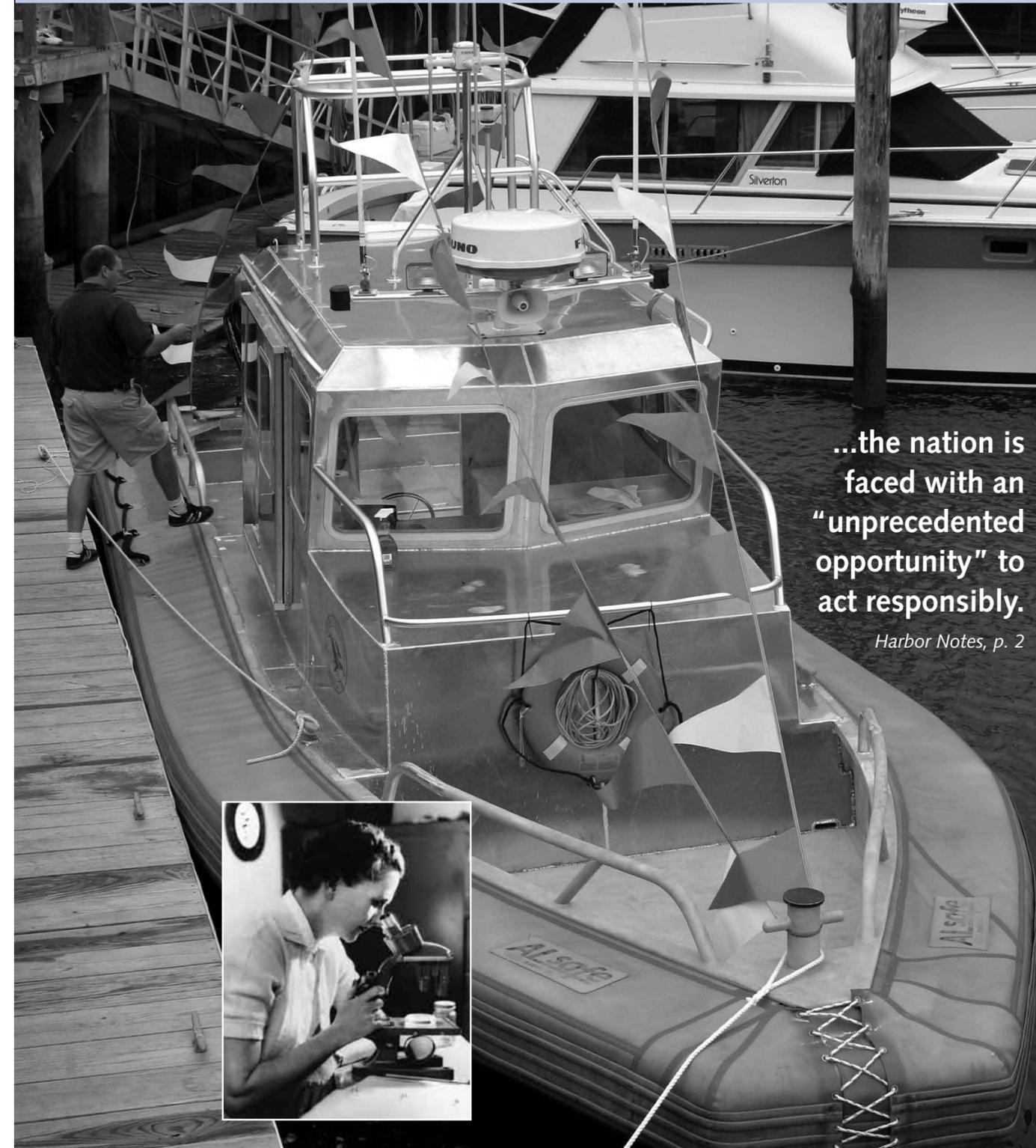
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COASTWATCH

Center for Coastal Studies • Provincetown, Massachusetts • 2004 • Volume 28 Issue 3



...the nation is faced with an "unprecedented opportunity" to act responsibly.

Harbor Notes, p. 2

An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century

by Peter Borrelli

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy delivered its final report, “An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century” to the President and Congress on September 20. Citing a general decline in environmental quality, the commission calls for an overhaul of the federal bureaucracy, more investment in marine science and education, and a new stewardship ethic. The report is considerably more muted than that of the independent Pew Oceans Commission, which issued its findings and recommendations in June, but the overall message is the same: our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are being seriously exploited, resulting in “significant economic costs, risks to human health, and ecological consequences that we are only beginning to comprehend.” But the commission also concludes that all is not lost and that the nation is faced with an “unprecedented opportunity” to act responsibly.

To its credit the present commission seems less interested in rearranging the chairs within the federal household and more focused on setting new goals and priorities for ocean management. For example, it calls for the adoption of such fundamental principles as sustainability, biodiversity, and the equitable administration of public trust resources. And the centerpiece of its blueprint for action is ecosystem-based management. Once a term only used among academicians and environmentalists, it now enjoys widespread use among resource managers. In the commission’s own words, “U.S. ocean and coastal resources should be managed to reflect the relationships among all ecosystem components, including human and nonhuman species and the environments in which they live. Applying this



principle will require defining relevant geographic management areas based on ecosystem, rather than political, boundaries.” The Pew Oceans Commission and the Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force have also endorsed the principle of ecosystem-based management.

The best illustration of what can happen when the public and private sector ignore the imperatives of nature are the coastal waters of Massachusetts where “User conflicts can and do arise when incompatible activities take place in the same area. *A comprehensive offshore management regime is needed for the balanced coordination of all offshore uses.*”[emphasis added] This is precisely what the Center for Coastal Studies concluded in its 2003 study of resource use and management of Nantucket Sound.

However, even as the recommendations of the U.S. Ocean Commission, Pew Oceans Commission, and Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force pile up, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plods on with its review of a proposed offshore wind energy development in federal waters in the middle of Nantucket Sound. The fact that the site is part of a larger ecosystem that has been twice recommended as a national marine sanctuary and is virtually surrounded by a state ocean sanctuary, a national estuarine research reserve, and a national wildlife refuge has yet to stop the federal agency. Knock, knock, is anyone home?

Currently, the Center is following up on its own recommendations of 2003 and those of these various

commissions, which have all more or less defined the same problems and offered the same solutions, and is in the process of making a first cut at a comprehensive management regime for the entire Nantucket Shelf area that extends south and east of the Sound as far as the Great South Channel. We hope to have it completed sometime this fall.

Hopefully, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the federal government will come to their senses in time to make our home waters a shining example of how best to manage the competing needs of society while protecting such fragile nearshore and offshore areas, rather than a case study of what not to do. During this political season you would think that all parties would be scrambling to embrace the recommendations of all three commissions.

Ecosystem-based Management

U.S. ocean and coastal resources should be managed to reflect the relationships among all ecosystem components, including human and nonhuman species and the environments in which they live. Applying this principle will require defining relevant geographic management areas based on ecosystem, rather than political, boundaries.

For more information about the findings and recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy go online to: www.oceancommission.gov.

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CCS Launches Former Coast Guard Boat Dedicated to Whale Rescue

In August, the Center for Coastal Studies and Nauset Marine launched CCS’s new 40-foot rapid response whale rescue vessel, *Ibis II*. The hull of the rigid hull inflatable, which will operate from the CCS’s base in Provincetown Harbor, is that

transporting a rescue crew of up to six. In July the boat was trailered to Nauset Marine in Orleans, Massachusetts, where a new set of 225 HP outboard engines donated to the project by Mercury Marine were installed along with new controls. The new engines will propel the boat at speeds up to 40 knots/hour. The new cabin also required

Mercury Marine for spearheading this effort.”

Overseeing the reconstruction for CCS was Marc Costa, director of marine operations, and owner and operator of the charter fishing vessel *Mystery* in Rock Harbor, Massachusetts.

At press time, *Ibis II* had already been called to duty on five rescue missions, including the successful disentanglement of three sea turtles in and around Cape Cod Bay, and a humpback whale known as *Rapier* off the Atlantic coast of Wellfleet, Massachusetts. In both sea trials and actual rescue events, the boat has exceeded expectations and the rescue team is delighted with her performance.

John Burman, CCS Chair, Dawson Farber III of Nauset Marine and Peter Borrelli, CCS Executive Director aboard Ibis II. Photo CCS Archives.



of a former Coast Guard prototype surf boat CG36501, built in 1997, surplused to the Air National Guard in 2001, and donated to CCS in 2003.

Redesign and reconstruction of the boat began in May with the removal of its original diesel engine and jet propulsion system, which had proven unreliable for both the Coast Guard and CCS. Fabrication of a new fuel tank, aft deck, and cabin were carried out at Kentfab in Norwell, Massachusetts, based on plans donated by the boat’s original designer, Ambar Marine of Louisiana. The new design added approximately four feet to the overall length of the boat and included construction of a cabin capable of

installation of a set of custom made windows donated to the project by Wynne Enterprises of Tusculumbia, Alabama. Electronics were donated by Kingman Yacht Center of Cataumet, Mass. Overseeing the project for Nauset Marine were Dawson Farber, III and Tom Collins. “Nauset Marine and Mercury Marine are proud to lend our support to the important work of the Center for Coastal Studies,” said Farber.

“The Center would not have been able to take on this project without the technical expertise and generosity of time and materials from so many in the marine industry,” said CCS executive director Peter Borrelli, “We are especially grateful to Nauset and

CCS Study May Aid Cape Cod to Prioritize Tidal Wetland Restoration Efforts

Coastal wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems on earth. Despite their global importance, these systems continue to be threatened by development, encroachment, and biological invasions. Ecologists are employing tidal restoration strategies designed to reverse chronic threats to these important systems, but further innovations may be needed to address the diversity of sites needing attention.

Following two years of data collection in ten tidally restricted salt marshes that have been invaded by common reed (*Phragmites australis*) spanning from Sandwich to Provincetown, CCS found evidence that some of the systems examined may prove easier to restore than others. Using the *Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes on Cape Cod* (prepared by the Cape Cod Commission for the Massachusetts Wetland Restoration Program) to select suitable sites, the study examined paired salt marsh systems, upstream and downstream of tidal restrictions such as roadways, bridges, and dikes. Upstream systems had restricted flow of seawater and

supported significant stands of common reed, while downstream sites maintained native plant communities dominated by *Spartina*-species. The latter serve as control sites, representing the physical and biogeochemical conditions that support a sustainable native salt marsh plant community for the particular watershed area.

In brief, the study found that salinity differed between only half of the restricted and unrestricted salt marsh pairings. Other physical and biogeochemical parameters known to affect plant species distribution, such as sediment texture, organic matter, and pore water sulfide concentration did not differ significantly across two thirds of the paired sites studied. This suggests that following tidal restoration ideal biogeochemical conditions may develop more slowly at some sites than others. Many of these sites may depend upon increased salinity alone to discourage substantial populations of invasive common reed.

While virtually every tidal restoration has the potential to succeed over the long term (10+



Gregg Moore has recently established a formal affiliation with the University of New Hampshire’s Jackson Estuarine Laboratory that will facilitate CCS’s continued ecological research throughout Cape Cod and the larger Gulf of Maine region.

years), these findings suggest that some sites may possess existing physical conditions that may more readily develop the requisite biogeochemical environment needed to promote and maintain a sustainable native salt marsh plant community. Ultimately, the study hopes to provide data to help land managers and restoration ecologists to prioritize potential restoration efforts using factors in addition to ecosystem size and perceived ecological significance.

For more information, contact Dr. Gregg Moore at gmoore@coastalstudies.org or gregg.moore@unh.edu.

Events

CCS to Celebrate Life of Rachel Carson

CCS is bringing the nationally-renowned play *A Sense of Wonder*, based on the life of Rachel Carson, to the Provincetown Theater on November 20 and 21.

Hailed by *Time Magazine* as one of its most influential people of the century, Rachel Carson (1907–1964) became one of the preeminent environmentalists of her time, whose most famous work, *Silent Spring*, focused on the dangers of pesticides. While its 1962 publication raised the ire of the chemical industry, the book recruited a new generation of environmentalists including President John F. Kennedy.

Bringing the essence of Carson to stage is actress and playwright Kaiulani Lee, who has appeared on and off-Broadway, on television, and in films such as *The World According to Garp* and *Compromising Positions*.

Performances of *A Sense of Wonder* are at 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 21, and Sunday, November 22 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and proceeds benefit the Center for Coastal Studies. A limited number of priority seats are available for \$150 per person and include a post-show reception with Ms. Lee after Saturday’s performance. The reception will be held at Fanizzi’s, 539 Commercial Street, a five-minute walk from the theater. Phone the Provincetown Theater at (508) 487-9793 to order tickets from Noon to 5 p.m., 7 days per week, or go on-line to ptowntix.com.

Rachel Carson’s work inspired generations of environmentalists. Photo courtesy Learl Carson Collection, Connecticut College. Inset: Kaiulani Lee.



Renovations Completed on CCS Headquarters

Structural renovations and repainting were completed at 115 Bradford Street in Provincetown in time for its third anniversary as official CCS headquarters and to dedicate its conference room to the memory of Ruth Hiebert, longtime friend, board member and patron of CCS, who died in February (see *Harbor Notes, CW Vol. 28, Issue 1*).