Enhancing Coastal NEMO Programs

The Project

In 2002, four branches of NOAA pooled their resources to fund the **Coastal NEMO Enhancement Grant Program**. The Coastal Programs Division, National Sea Grant College Program, National Estuarine Research Reserve System and Coastal Services Center worked with the Network Hub to make available $200,000 of NOAA funding in competitive grants to coastal NEMO programs to enhance their educational efforts. The purpose was twofold: to stimulate collaboration between these four arms of NOAA at the state and community level, and to give a "shot in the arm" to emerging NEMO programs in coastal states.

Results to Date

In all, six NEMO programs received funding through the Enhancement Grant Program for a variety of projects. The grants empowered programs to expand their educational offerings, enhance their technical expertise, develop new educational materials and better track impacts; one grant even launched a new NEMO program. The projects enhanced not only the NEMO programs in these states, but the entire Network by providing new tools, models and resources that could be shared.

▶ New York NEMO used its grant to expand its geographic coverage into Suffolk County, which covers the eastern half of Long Island. NOAA Enhancement Grant funds were leveraged with EPA dollars from the Long Island Sound Study (a National Estuary Program) to create detailed GIS and remote sensing datasets for five priority areas: the Nissequogue River watershed (see map, left) and the four North Shore harbors of Northport, Stony Brook, Port Jefferson and Mount Sinai. The new data and imagery have been used to enhance NY NEMO educational programs on inter-jurisdictional watershed management, and to strengthen the partnership between NEMO, the Suffolk County Watershed Management Plan and the state Stormwater Phase II program.

▶ Maine NEMO used its Enhancement Grant to help focus its materials and programs to coastal communities. This included "train the trainer" workshops, and technical assistance mini-grants for key personnel from the Maine NEMO partner agencies. Results included over

25 educational workshops conducted for communities in Maine's mid-coast region. The program also expanded its Maine NEMO Tool-box for communities, adding several publications and a resource list of technical contacts, publications and websites.

▶ The New Hampshire NEMO effort, NROC, adapted the "Logic Model" of program evaluation for NEMO's target audience of community decision makers, focusing on ways to track changes to local policies, plans, regulations and development design. This information has become the basis for a comprehensive NROC Progress Report, and also provided input to the Network Hub during the creation of the web-based NEMO Network Reporting Form.

▶ Ohio NEMO used the grant to enhance its use of GIS data and technology, and to expand its programs to Ohio's coastal area through work in the Chagrin, Old Woman Creek and Grand River watersheds of the Lake Erie Basin. The project, which leveraged funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, created regional impervious coverage coefficients for use by local planners and for NEMO partners through use of the ISAT watershed analysis model (see Project Profile #2). The project also developed several fact sheets, and stimulated a strong partnership between NEMO and another Ohio State University effort, the *Stream Restoration, Ecology and Aquatic Management Solutions* (STREAMS) program.

TX NEMO's urban growth primer Choices for Growth.

▶ South Carolina NEMO developed highly accurate impervious surface coefficients for a wide variety of land uses in the three-county region surrounding Charleston, South Carolina. Four communities of varying size, ranging from the City of Charleston to the small town of Bonneau, were used to create impervious cover data that can be used with the ISAT model (Project Profile #2) to analyze watersheds and create educational images for NEMO programming. The coefficients can also be used by other Southeastern NEMO programs.

▶ The largest of the Coastal NEMO Enhancement Grants was used to help establish the Texas Coastal Watershed Program, or Texas NEMO.

Six regional workshops were conducted in partnership with the Houston-Galveston Area Council, and a major workshop on compact growth, Density by Design, was held in Houston. NOAA funds were leveraged by a grant from the Texas General Land Office to provide GIS capability to the program, further establishing Texas NEMO as a source of natural resource and land use education and information. Texas NEMO also used the funds to develop an urban growth primer for local officials (image, left). The primer has been made available throughout the country via the Sea Grant and NEMO Networks.

What this Project Demonstrates

The Coastal Enhancement Grants show the power of leveraging existing NEMO partnerships with relatively modest amounts of funding. These small grants not only resulted in permanent improvements to the NEMO programs selected, but through the Network, created additional models and tools for the other 25 programs around the country. In addition, the program was a catalyst for collaboration between four separate sections of NOAA, both at the national level and, through local NEMO efforts, at the community level.

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