

AAPA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

Since 1973 AAPA has recognized activities which benefit the environment at its ports and presented environmental awards. The Association considers four project award categories: Environmental Enhancement, Mitigation, Community/Public Involvement and Comprehensive Environmental Management. The awards program is administered by the Association's Harbors, Navigation and Environment Committee.

Examples of **environmental enhancement** include debris control and clean-up, port beautification, public access, uncompelled restoration of natural resources or creative solutions for handling ship-generated waste.

Mitigation refers to offsetting unavoidable negative impacts of a project, through wetlands restoration or creation and habitat creation.

Community/public involvement considers programs to foster public involvement at the port, port initiatives to stop source pollution of waterways, creation of voluntary regulatory programs, and environmental training programs for port personnel.

Comprehensive environmental management involves the development and execution of a comprehensive plan that seeks to minimize the environmental impact of, and where possible, enhance the environment through, port operations. Examples of such plans include establishment of port environmental policies, training and empowering port personnel in the use of pollution prevention practices, and working with tenants, environmental agencies and the public in promoting the goals of the plan.

Six general award criteria are used to evaluate the entries in the competition:

1. Level and nature of benefits to environmental quality, beautification or community involvement.
2. Level of independent involvement and effort by the port.
3. The creativity of the solution or program.
4. Whether the project results are apparent (the project must be complete through some beneficial increment).
5. The cost effectiveness of the activity or the program.
6. The transferability of the technology or idea to the port industry.

The **Calvin Hurst Award for Outstanding Achievement** is presented for exceptional projects. Because of the exemplary nature of its intended recipients, the Award is not necessarily presented every year. It is named for the late Calvin Hurst, the first port environmental professional who served a marine environmentalist at the Port of Los Angeles from 1972 to 1987.

For more information on the Environmental Improvement Awards contact either Tom Chase, Director of Environmental Affairs, at 703-706-4715 or e-mail tchase@aapa-ports.org or Eileen Denne, Director of Public Relations at 703-706-4714 or e-mail: edenne@aapa-ports.org.

(more)

1998 Calvin Hurst Award for Outstanding Achievement

PORT OF LOS ANGELES - Batiquitos Lagoon Enhancement Project

The Port of Los Angeles' Batiquitos Lagoon Enhancement Project is one of the largest restoration projects ever completed in the U.S. This was planned to offset the negative environmental impact of dredging Outer Los Angeles Harbor for new cargo terminals and constructing 613 acres of new land there. In exchange for this development, the degrading Batiquitos Lagoon ninety miles south has been carefully restored as a model of environmental mitigation. After seven years of planning and three years of construction, this project boasts construction of a tidal inlet structure, nourishment of beaches with sand dredged from the harbor, construction of 32 acres of sandy nesting areas for endangered bird species, and precision lagoon dredging to create a specific acreage of subtidal and intertidal habitats. Since its re-opening to tidal flows nearly two years ago, the lagoon's physical structure has been functioning as planned and its habitats are thriving. Long-term biological monitoring and studies will provide for the lagoon's maintenance and viability.

1998 Environmental Enhancement Award

PORT OF SEATTLE - Bell Street Pier Project

The Port of Seattle's Bell Street Pier Project revitalized an underutilized section of the city's historic downtown waterfront. In cooperation with the city government, regulatory agencies, and private industry, the port's project began with a cleanup of contaminated sediments and construction of permeable wave barriers, piers and aprons that were computer modeled to encourage fish passage for juvenile salmon in the harbor. Design of the new pier incorporates facilities for large commercial vessels, a recreational marina, and a conference center. This summer a maritime museum joined the attractions of successful restaurants and retail businesses there. The popular new pier links a previously neglected waterfront area with other retail and tourist attractions by attractive pedestrian bridges, sidewalks and plazas.

1998 Mitigation Award

TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY - Pendola Point Mitigation Project

Tampa Port Authority won the Mitigation award for its Pendola Point Mitigation Project. When this project was begun in 1990, it planned to offset the filling of 68 acres for port expansion by creating new wetlands. However, as the project evolved, the environmental philosophy of the various permitting and commenting agencies changed from one of "type-for-type" wetlands to a more holistic view. Long-term management plans now specify removal of unwanted nuisance and exotic species to ensure that the site is maintained in its natural state. Three-year monitoring plans carefully follow up on the two phases of the environmental design plan, resulting in a diverse mix of upland and wetland communities and a true ecosystem management approach that can serve as a model to other ports.

1998 Community Involvement Award

MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY - Boston Harbor's Navigation Improvement Project

Boston Harbor's Navigation Improvement Project initiated early public involvement in the planning process. The port sought to build support for its dredging proposal to maintain and deepen key portions of its navigation channels and berths. Of the three million cubic yards of sediment removed, nearly one third were considered contaminated and were placed in deep disposal cells below existing navigation channels. Massport began its partnership for this project with the Corps of Engineers, and subsequently included project stakeholders and potential adversaries in an advisory committee. State and federal environmental agencies also joined in a series of formal and informal meetings. After more than twenty years of planning and permitting, the project's first

phase was completed last summer, and the second and final phase of construction is underway with community support.

1998 Comprehensive Environmental Management Award

PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

The Port of Houston Authority claimed the Comprehensive Environmental Management award for its ongoing environmental management program. This program has eliminated or greatly reduced pollution in the port's properties, protected natural resources, improved the quality of the workplace, and reduced costs for cleanup and potential remediation. After adopting an initial environmental policy in 1989, the port set up a protocol for internal communication among departments, for reviewing proposed regulation changes, and for personnel training. It also created ways to develop and improve its program, and incorporated internal checks and balances. Manuals and handbooks carefully spell out procedures and responsibilities, and inspections and sampling are conducted regularly. Successful audit completion and an immediate response to spills and incidents are examples of the general success of this policy, and have resulted in decreased port expenditures as well as environmental improvement.

1997 Environmental Enhancement Award

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL PORT DISTRICT - Harbors Golf Complex

The Illinois International Port District won an award for Environmental Enhancement for its Harborside International Golf Complex, demonstrating superior leadership in developing a reuse plan for an old landfill that balanced the port's role in providing economic development, environmental stewardship and recreational opportunities --- and ultimately developed a world class golf course. Development of the complex involved a massive civil engineering project covering 458 acres of land. It involved the closure of the City of Chicago's historic landfill site at Lake Calumet. The site functioned as the primary source of waste disposal for the City for more than 20 year and another 20 years as treated waste by the Metropolitan Sanitary District.

Rather than simply closing the landfill and spending a vast amount maintaining and securing the site, the Illinois International Port District chose to construct a world class golf complex to assist in the revitalization of the area. The project involved massive utility extensions; major storm water control activities; vital transportation planning; special permitting for wetlands and irrigation water use; issues addressing Zebra mussel infestation; and extensive geotechnical studies and planning.

1997 Community Relations/Public Involvement Award

PORT OF PORTLAND - Swan Island Air Modeling Project

When citizens' questions caused the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to investigate air emissions coming from the Port of Portland's Swan Island industrial area, the DEQ asked the Port for help. The Port implemented a community involvement process to bring about consensus, including: involving neighborhood groups from the start; defining the air emissions modeling process before results were produced; educating the task force; allowing all voices to be heard throughout the process and including expertise from nationally prominent authorities in air modeling, shipyard air emissions, hazardous air emissions, air toxic health risks and environmental issue communications.

The two-year effort resulted in a reliable scientific study of toxic air pollutants emanating from the shipyard to neighborhoods near Swan Island, and a real reduction in the amount of air toxics. The project greatly enhanced relationships with citizens and agencies with whom the Port of Portland regularly works.

1996 Community Relations/Public Involvement Award

CANAVERAL PORT AUTHORITY - Manatee Protection Program

Canaveral Port Authority has implemented a Manatee Protection Program designed to increase awareness and provide protection for this endangered species. The program is directed to port tenants, commercial shipping interests and recreational boaters. The port is committed to providing structural improvements to the piers to enhance manatee safety and requests tenants improve shipboard fenders. Key elements of the Port Canaveral Manatee Protection Program include improvements to the port's fendering system, grating of stormwater outfalls to prevent manatees from entering and implementation of an education awareness program for port users.

1996 Environmental Enhancement Award

PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY - Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material:

Demonstration Marsh Creation Project

The Port of Houston Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed a 220-acre demonstration marsh. They used criteria developed by an interagency working group to identify key environmental and design parameters and the management requirements needed to establish and sustain the marsh. The monitoring phase of the marsh is currently underway. For the past three years the Demonstration Marsh has provided important nesting habitat for terns and skimmers. The Port has gained valuable construction experience to permit refinement of the process. Information gained throughout the life of the demonstration project will be used in the development and management of 4,250 acres of marsh to be created from dredged material from the Houston Ship Channel.

1995 Calvin Hurst Award for Outstanding Achievement

PORT OF SEATTLE - Southwest Harbor Cleanup and Redevelopment Project

The Port's goal was to plan, design, cleanup and redevelop a proposed 200-acre site within five years for the APL container terminal and intermodal yard. The Port's project team met its goals to: meet an accelerated schedule for property acquisition, cleanup and redevelopment; remain within the \$262 million total project; meet the challenge of environmental enhancement; meet four environmental laws; devise solutions to first-time policy issues; and develop successful working relationships with community groups, citizens, business stakeholders, agencies and Tribal governments. The port's EIS project manager presented project information at more than 190 meetings and workshops. More than 1,300 agency and citizen comments were received.

1995 Community/Public Involvement Awards

PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY - Beneficial Uses Process

The Beneficial Uses Group (BUG) was formed to determine disposal plans that utilize dredged material in an environmentally sound and economically acceptable manner that incorporates other public benefits into its design. The public coordination effort resulted in more potential uses being identified for dredged material than the total material available for construction. Based on suggestions from the public, a final disposal plan was developed by BUG and accepted in July 1994. Materials included a video, brochure, slides, and visual displays.

CANAVERAL PORT AUTHORITY - Sea Oats and Beach Grass Distribution

To mitigate downdrift erosion, the port has sponsored several large scale beach restoration projects. The Corps of Engineers asked Canaveral if they were interested in purchasing any portion of 65,000 beach plants. The plants had to be planted quickly or would perish. Canaveral agree to purchase all 65,000 plants. Local agencies planted a number of the sea oats and bitter Panicum, leaving 39,200 plants to Canaveral to distribute. They put

an ad in the local paper advising that the plants were free of charge, and the last 39,200 plants were given away within the first two hours. All 65,000 seedlings were planted on the beach dunes.

1995 Environmental Enhancement Award

GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION - Efforts to Beautify Bayou LaFourche

For over two decades the Greater Lafourche Port Commission has conducted various clean-up programs which involved the Bayou. The programs include removal of over 100 derelict vessels from the waterway, removal of countless pilings and wharves, public awareness and involvement campaigns, weekly bayou patrol and clean up, embankment beautification and enforcement of ordinances. To date, they have spent approximately \$600,000 on cleanup.

1994 Environmental Enhancement Award

MANATEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY - Peanut Lake Restoration Project

For almost ten years Port Manatee was actively involved in the "Peanut Lake Restoration Project." In 1989, the port contracted with the State of Florida to spearhead the entire restoration project, involving 10 governmental, regulatory and private environmental agencies. The immediate goals were to clean out Peanut Lake and Round Pound, and to restore tidal flow to these areas. The project restored the natural contours of Peanut Lake and Round Pound and by restoring tidal flow to these lakes, the protected inland system now serves as a nursery habitat for countless species of marine organisms. It also provides a prime feeding habitat for other indigenous wildlife. The restored area now joins other adjacent coastal wetlands in a system which will help to improve ambient water quality of the Tampa Bay estuary.

1994 Mitigation Award

VIRGINIA PORT AUTHORITY - Wetlands Mitigation Project

The Ports of Virginia's Wetlands Mitigation Project was developed to offset inter - and sub-tidal wetlands losses resulting from a waterfront development project on the Elizabeth River at the Portsmouth Marine Terminal. The \$20 million waterfront development project required the Virginia Port Authority to provide an 8.7-acre, inter-tidal mitigation site to compensate for wetlands lost in the development.

Among the goals of Virginia Port Authority were locating the mitigation site in an area that would maximize its potential use by wildlife, and beautifying the highly visible marine terminal by transforming the existing dilapidated buildings and overgrown farm fields into aesthetically pleasing tidal wetlands. Another goal was making the area an asset to the community by encouraging its use as an environmental facility by local schools and colleges.

1994 Community/Public Involvement Award

CANAVERAL PORT AUTHORITY - Right Whale Protection Program

The Canaveral Port Authority developed a broad-based education/awareness campaign to make commercial and recreational Port users aware of the presence of the Northern Right Whale, the world's most endangered large whale. The whales use the waters along Florida's east coast as their primary calving grounds.

In June 1993, the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed to establish a Right Whale critical habitat along the eastern coastal areas of the U.S. Port Canaveral responded to the critical habitat designation by implementing a protection program to prevent ship strikes and encourage reportings of whale sightings through an established

siting network. The Port's program resulted in a significant increase in awareness and knowledge of how to identify and avoid Right Whales, and saved at least one whale from being struck by a ship during the 1993-94 calving season.

1994 Community/Public Involvement Award

PORT OF BELLINGHAM - Environmental and Visitor Services Guide for Boaters

In order to bring their more than 2,000 fishermen and recreational boaters into the modern age of environmentally responsible boating practices, the Port of Bellingham used personal contact, surveys and a booklet to highlight the negative impacts that certain activities have upon the marine environment.

The objectives of the Port's program were to research operational issues at the Port's harbors affecting marine water quality and to compile and produce a resource guide for fishermen and boaters outlining environmental statutes and regulations, providing contacts and information in the case of an oil spill or other environmentally harmful accident. The brochure, "Northern Puget Sound Environmental and Visitor Services Guide for Boaters," includes marina maps, recycling center locations and solid waste pumpout and used oil disposal sites. The brochure lists best management practices, where to find "environmental" products and alternative products. It is distributed region-wide at all North Puget Sound marinas. Fisherman have already used its ideas.

1993 Environmental Enhancement Award

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT - Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve

The San Diego Unified Port District was honored for its 72-acre Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve construction, marsh creation efforts and its ongoing wildlife management activities.

The Wildlife Reserve was constructed in the shallow waters of South San Diego Bay in 1980 using material dredged from a new recreational boat marina. The Wildlife Reserve contains a shallow subtidal mudflat, intertidal saltmarsh and supratidal sand and dune habitats. It is now home to endangered species such as the California least tern, western snowy plover and Belding's savannah sparrow. For 15 years the Reserve has been actively managed and annually monitored by the Port District.

1993 Mitigation Award

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY - Dredging the Savannah River Estuary

Georgia Ports Authority received the award for mitigating impacts associated with deepening the entire Savannah River Estuary System. Since 1987, Georgia Ports Authority has worked continually to develop common ground between the Corps and the environmental community. Its goals centered upon changing the working relationships with these groups to identify and define the environmental conditions within the Savannah River Estuary System.

Georgia Ports Authority's long-term goals included: identifying existing environmental concerns within the Savannah River Estuary System; restoring the Savannah Harbor Estuary environment to the levels that existed prior to construction of the channel structures; restoring the Savannah River Estuary as a major spawning ground for striped bass; re-establishing the marsh areas of the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge to superior wildlife value tidal freshwater regimes; and getting agreement from the environmental community to allow the deepening of the Savannah Harbor.

1992 Calvin Hurst Award for Outstanding Achievement

PORT OF TORONTO - Soil Recycling Demonstration Project

In their Soil Recycling Demonstration Project, the Toronto Harbour Commission made a concerted effort to remediate contaminated soil with the goal of returning the land to a marketable commodity. Dr. Dennis Lang, Director of Engineering for the Harbour Commission, was instrumental in identifying the need for the project and directed it from conception to completion.

The Toronto project represents the first time several soil remediation technologies were integrated to provide a complete soil treatment service. The project removed contaminants from the soil so that the cleaned soil could be reused as fill for industrial land development. Used oil and contaminant metals were recovered in pure form for recycling. To date, most of the effort to find effective technologies to clean up contaminated lands has been concentrated on the control of environmental damage and the risks presented by existing hazardous sites.

1992 Environmental Enhancement Award

MANATEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY - Experimental Fish Hatchery

Port Manatee, on the Gulf coast of Florida, received the Environmental Enhancement award for enhancing natural resources by building an experimental fish hatchery designed to use the port's diked dredged material disposal area.

Florida's marine recreational fisheries resources have dwindled in recent decades. In conjunction with the Florida Department of Natural Resources, the Manatee County Port Authority developed a 25-year land agreement to access 70 acres of a dredge disposal site for continued construction and operation of hatchery ponds. Funded by the Florida legislature, the hatchery is part of a larger research effort to test fin fish stock enhancement technology in Florida. Because of the excellent sealing ability of the clays in the dredge disposal area, the hatchery ponds will hold water without artificial liners.

1991 Environmental Enhancement Award

MARYLAND PORT ADMINISTRATION - Hart-Miller Island State Park

The Hart-Miller Island State Park is part of the largest dredged material containment/island reclamation project ever undertaken in Maryland. The containment facility is the key element in the state's dredged material management plan. The project has been designed and managed to protect existing wetlands, forest habitat and wildlife on Hart Island in particular. It has enhanced recreational opportunities for people by building a 3,000 foot beach reconnecting Hart and Miller Islands, which opened for use even before initial construction of the dredged material disposal facility was completed.

1991 Mitigation Awards

CANADA PORTS CORPORATION - Construction of a Coal-Receiving Wharf at the Port of Belledune

The award was presented for environmental improvements at the Port of Belledune, as a result of the advantageous disposal of dredged material. Dredging was undertaken to provide approach channel depth and permit the construction of an additional berth to accommodate 100,000 dwt vessels.

1991 Mitigation Awards

PORT EVERGLADES - Marinelli Gardens/Christopher Columbus Park:
A Maritime Honor for a Great Explorer

The locally active Italian Chamber of Commerce in Port Everglades conceived the idea to create a park in the new Port Center to honor the explorer, Christopher Columbus, in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America. In recognition of the strong Italian influence in both South Florida and Port Everglades, an area of approximately three acres was set aside for the park.

1990 Mitigation Awards

PORT OF KALAMA - North Port Wetland Enhancement Project

The Port of Kalama experimented with the idea of creating an enhanced wetland in order to mitigate for the development of an industrial site. Their challenge was the notion that this was a new concept, one that had no ready textbook of resource and direction. They were exploring uncharted territory -- the creation of wetlands that would support a variety of native and diverse mammals, birds and fish.

PORT OF LONG BEACH - The Anaheim Bay Wetland Restoration Project

The primary goal of this project was to provide mitigation for habitat values lost to a harbor landfill project. The loss was occasioned by the Port's need to expand container terminal facilities by the 147 acres.

1989 Environmental Improvement Awards

NORTH FRASER HARBOUR COMMISSION - North Fraser Harbour Environmental Management Plan

PORT OF SEATTLE - An Environmental Inspection Program for the Port of Seattle

1988 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

CANAVERAL PORT AUTHORITY - Award of Excellence

Enhancement of 2,000 acres of artificially impounded marsh and creating of feeding habitat for the woodstock and endangered species and provide mosquito control for the area.

1988 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

PORT OF SEATTLE - Award of Merit

"Opening Our Doors" a program to improve public understanding and participation in port planning and development.

1987 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

PORT OF TACOMA - Award of Excellence

HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR DISTRICT - Award of Excellence

1986 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

PORT EVERGLADES AUTHORITY - Award of Excellence

Dedicated approximately 3-1/2 acres of port property to the Manatee. Widened and deepened the area to be accessible for the Manatee migration.

1985 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

PORT OF LOS ANGELES - Award of Excellence (Kelp project)

PORT OF LONG BEACH - Award of Excellence (Harbor Beautification project)

1984 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

PORT OF LOS ANGELES - Awards of Excellence (Salt Marsh project)

PORT OF ALASKA - Awards of Excellence (Petroleum containment basin)

PORT OF PALM BEACH - Award of Merit (Public access recreation projects)

1983 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

PORT EVERGLADES AUTHORITY - Overall Award of Excellence (Internal oil recovery program)

PORT OF TACOMA - Citation of Meritorious Achievement (WPPA Marine safety and fire training program)

PORT OF LONG BEACH - Citation of Meritorious Achievement (Permit Handbook)