

RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION

5430 GROSVENOR LANE

BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-2193

TEL 301.493.9101 • WWW.RNRF.ORG • INFO@RNRF.ORG

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Dear Colleague:

In response to the excellent work of the Pew Oceans Commission and U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, directors of the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation decided that this consortium of professional, scientific, and educational organizations (member list left) needed to enthusiastically support their extraordinary work.

RNRF's "Congress on Building Capacity for Coastal Solutions" brought together more than 80 scientists, managers, and professionals, from 65 organizations, to consider findings and recommendations, and to identify other high priority activities for early action. The resulting report, *Building Capacity for Coastal Solutions*, identifies high priority actions in the areas of governance, information technology and science, and community empowerment. Copies of the report are available in PDF format free at <http://www.rnrf.org>. Please feel free to share it with your colleagues.

Delegates made significant findings on information technology and the need to encourage the sharing and integration of data as an efficient means of utilizing limited funding, research capacity, and political capital. They recognized the importance of a nationwide framework for the collection and dissemination of data. Such a framework will depend upon the development of standards in terminology, classifications, and sampling and monitoring methods.

To avoid duplication of existing efforts, a dynamic database is being created to track ongoing key activities in data standards, inventories, classifications, and frameworks. RNRF is undertaking the preparation of such a database.

Members of the coastal resources community and the larger natural resources community are asked to complete a brief web survey about their activities related to data standards, inventories, classifications, and frameworks. The survey can be found at <http://www.rnrf.org/2004cong/survey.html>. While the survey will remain available to allow for the sharing of information on future activities, we ask that you complete the survey on existing activities by May 15, 2006. Upon launch of the database, its availability will be widely publicized.

We look forward to sharing information about your worthwhile projects with other members of the natural resources community. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Day, J.D.
Executive Director