

THE AIR-SEA CONNECTION: AIR POLLUTION

SHRINKING SHORES AND MORE

The feel of the wet sand as the waves gently lap your toes is undeniably one of the joys of summer in the Bay State. As you appreciate this shining seascape, are you thinking about how you left your air conditioner running at home or that your family car needs a tune up? Here's why you should . . .

What goes up must come down—and pollutants released to the air often settle on the sea. Called atmospheric deposition, this process transfers nitrogen, sulfur, mercury, pesticides, and other toxics from the air to the ocean. The sources of these air pollutants include burning fossil fuels for power, vehicle emissions, industrial releases of chemicals, and trash incineration.

The air pollution/global warming link also has serious consequences for the coast. Burning of fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, along with widespread forest cutting have led to significant increases of heat-trapping "greenhouse gases" in the atmosphere. Like the glass panels of a greenhouse, these gases insulate the earth and prevent heat from escaping to space. Escalating levels of these greenhouse gasses are increasing global temperatures, melting ice caps and glaciers and warming ocean waters (causing them to expand). The results—rising sea levels and increased frequency and severity of storms—exacerbate shoreline erosion and increase coastal storm damage. (See *CZScience: Sea Level Rise and Shrinking Salt Marsh* on page 72 for more.)

THREE THINGS CZM IS DOING FOR SHRINKING SHORELINES

- I. **STORMSMART COASTS** - CZM launched this nationally award-winning program in 2006 with the hard work of a Coastal Management Fellow funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's Coastal Services Center. StormSmart Coasts is based on the No Adverse Impact (NAI) approach, which requires that public and private projects are designed and completed in such a way that they do not: 1) pose a threat to public safety, 2) increase flood or storm damage to public or



CZM's Robin Lacey Named Educator of the Year by Mass Marine Trades

By Anne Donovan, CZM



In recognition of his dedicated work to help marina owners and operators comply with existing and emerging water quality regulations, CZM's Robin Lacey was presented with the Educator of the Year Award by the Massachusetts Marine Trades Association (MMTA) on January 29, 2008. "For almost 10 years, Robin has patiently and proactively educated Massachusetts marine businesses on their responsibilities as stewards of the coastal environment. If one of our member firms is overwhelmed with the complexity of a specific environmental compliance regulation, they can count on Robin to swiftly answer their questions with clear and concise information," said MMTA's Greg Glavin. "In doing so, he has shepherded an entire industry in the direction of environmental compliance solutions that are effective, attainable, and affordable," he continued.

"Robin is firmly committed to helping make all of this easier for the marina operators, who are more than willing to do all they can to keep the water that their businesses depend on as clean as possible," said CZM Director Leslie-Ann McGee. "We are very proud that he was recognized by MMTA for his efforts, and look forward to our continued partnership with them."

For more on clean boating and marina operations, see CZM's Marinas in Massachusetts web page at www.mass.gov/czm/marinas, which includes links to the *Massachusetts Clean Marina Guide*.

