



UNH Institute Awards \$3.6 Million To Advance Coastal Technology

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UNH/NOAA Cooperative Institute for
Coastal & Estuarine Environmental Technology

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DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) awarded 15 grants totaling \$3,650,337 for new tools to clean up and protect coastal environments. A partnership of UNH and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Institute was established in 1997 with the support of U.S. Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH).

"Increasing development is good for the economy, but tough on coastal environments," says Richard Langan, CICEET's UNH co-director. "These projects were selected for their potential to transform innovative technology and scientific expertise into practical, accessible tools that balance the protection of human, environmental, and economic health."

The grants will support environmental technology development projects in 14 coastal states and engage the participation of scientists from academia, private industry, and government agencies. Each project focuses on a priority environmental challenge, many of which have a direct impact on human health.

Several researchers are developing new approaches to monitoring swimming beaches for bacterial contamination or coastal waters for harmful algal blooms like red tide—two problems that hit record highs in 2005. Others are refining tools to scrub pollution from stormwater runoff and municipal wastewater, treat toxic chemicals in the sediments of urban waterways, and protect or restore habitats.

The work will take place at National Estuarine Research Reserve System sites in Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, California, Oregon, Maryland, Virginia, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. For more information on each project, visit CICEET online: http://ciceet.unh.edu/stats/etd_2007.html.

CICEET operates through an annual grant from NOAA's Office of Coastal Resource Management. Since 1997, it has invested in more than 150 coastal technology projects. The CICEET toolkit includes technology and know-how to detect pollution, recover healthy habitats, and prevent the future impacts of pollution.