

Turning the Tide: America's Coasts at a Crossroads

An Interactive Multimedia CD-ROM



In an effort to help keep the general public informed and aware of the issues, problems, and concerns facing the nation's coastal areas, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment (ORCA) has developed and released an interactive multimedia CD-ROM entitled *Turning the Tide: America's Coasts at a Crossroads*.

Designed for the general public, this educational CD-ROM explores some of the uses, functions, and ways of managing coastal areas.

Turning the Tide focuses on the nation's coasts, which are under increasing pressure from economic development and human activities. It is designed for use in museums, schools, and exhibits, and makes full use of multimedia including video, animations, music and sound, and imagery.

A Focus on Coastal Themes, Uses, and Issues

The CD-ROM is divided into four thematic areas: 1) Marine Commerce and Navigation; 2) Estuaries and Pollution; 3) Coastal Development; and 4) Preserving Our Marine Heritage. The contents of each of these sections are accessed by users by simply pointing and clicking.

Marine Commerce and Navigation begins with a description of increasing marine commerce in the United States, and then provides information on the



The main menu includes four sections on coastal issues facing the United States.

nation's major ports and their chief exports and imports. The next section describes the tasks and tools associated with marine navigation, and a third section provides a look at oil spills along the coast. The environmental effects of such spills are described, as is what happens during a spill event, and examples of recent spills are given to illustrate causes, effects, and cleanup actions that have been taken.

Estuaries and Pollution describes the importance of estuaries as habitat to many diverse species and as areas that are being increasingly affected by pollution from human activities. Animations illustrate the dynamic estuarine system and the movement and fate of pollutants. Case studies portray aspects of estuarine management and protection.

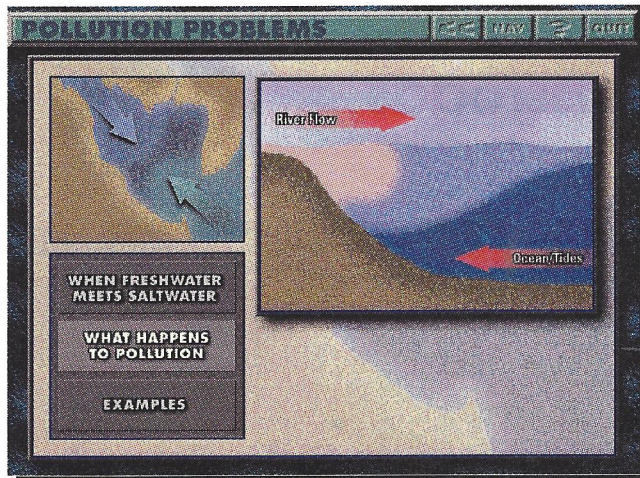
A complete section on **Coastal Development** will be included in Version 2 of the CD-ROM.

An Educational Tool

Turning the Tide debuted at "Ocean Planet," a travelling exhibit on ocean conservation, that opened at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History on Earth Day 1995. The CD-ROM is one of four interactive products being used as educational tools at the museum, and will travel with the exhibit when it leaves Washington, D.C. in January 1996 for a seven-city tour across the United States. Version 2 will take its place when it is released in late 1996.

The CD-ROM is also being used as an educational tool at other museums throughout the country for example Nauticus, the national maritime museum in Norfolk, Virginia, and is being sold by the New England Aquarium in Boston.

Finally, over 500 copies have been distributed to users including schools, estuarine research reserves, and national marine sanctuaries which are using the product to educate users about potential impacts on the coastal environment.



The special pollution-related problems of estuaries are shown.

Preserving Our Marine Heritage begins with a brief history of marine protected area management in the United States. A description of the National Marine Sanctuary and National Estuarine Research Reserve systems follows, and interactive video tours are given of four of the nation's marine sanctuaries. Finally, the debate over the use and preservation of these areas is examined.

Version 2: Enhanced Coastal Information

Version 2 of *Turning the Tide*, scheduled for release in late 1996, will include enhanced and expanded information on a variety of coastal management issues.

include information on the activities and species occurring within these protected areas.

A second enhancement will be an improved section on estuaries and pollution. Six new estuaries will be profiled and information from ORCA databases will be available on the physical and biological characteristics of each estuary.

Perhaps most importantly, a major new section will be added on development in coastal areas. Information will be provided on the nature of the land and water components of coastal areas and how this sensitive area is being affected by population growth and the accompanying increases in development and pollution.

Ten to 15 new tours of national marine sanctuaries and national estuarine research reserves will be available. These and slide video tours, which will illustrate areas such as the Monterey Bay and Grays Reef national marine sanctuaries, will

reinforce the major points presented throughout the CD-ROM on each of the four coastal themes.

Requirements for Use

The following hardware and software specifications are recommended *at a minimum*:

Either:

- A Macintosh running System 7.1 or later with a 68030 processor running at 33 MHz; QuickTime 2.0, Multimedia Tuner 2.0.1, and Sound Manager 3.0;
- 8 Mb Ram and a 2X CD-ROM drive; and
- A monitor displaying 256 colors (8-bit) at 640 by 480 pixels;

or:

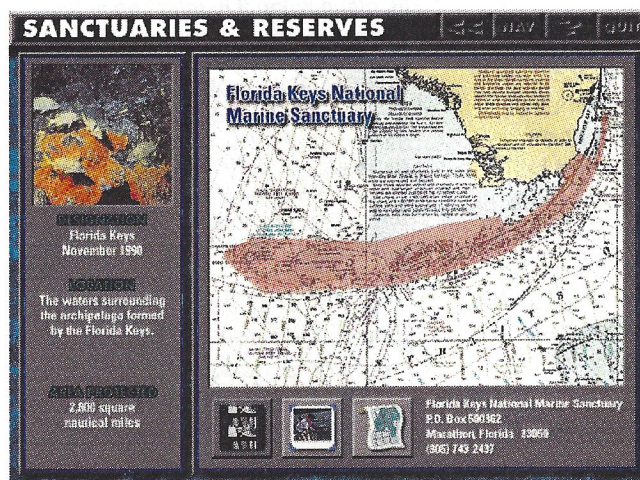
- a 486 DX-2 IBM-compatible machine running at 66 MHz with:
- 8 Mb ram, 2X CD-ROM drive, and Sound Blaster card; and
- A 256-color VGA monitor.

For More Information

To receive additional information about the CD-ROM or find out how to purchase a copy, contact:

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Information is given on the nation's sanctuaries and reserves.

Examples of how particular coastal areas are addressing these problems will also be included.

Finally, a Question and Answer segment is being developed for the end of each section that will help users