



Accomplishments in 2012

Regulatory Enforcement Actions

- ✓ Continued court action to prevent illegal and unaccountable disturbance of ocean shorefront due to illegal “letters of permission” by Coastal Resources Division of Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Won an Appeals Court decision that empowers the Center to file for court injunctions if the practice continues.
- ✓ Persisted with legal proceedings to resolve a violation of the marsh buffer that was improperly administered by the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The case is presently in state Appeals Court and is scheduled to be heard in the spring of 2013.
- ✓ Challenged the issuance of a Marshlands Protection Permit by Georgia DNR for construction of a marina on Bull River in Chatham County. Succeeding in having the permit remanded to the permitting committee due to inadequate analysis of need, which is required to substantiate justification for building any proposed marina.
- ✓ Commented on numerous marsh and shore permits to improve enforceable conditions and reduce risk of harm to coastal resources. Also filed a joint statement critical of a “Programmatic General Permit” (PGP) update, proposed by the Corps of Engineers, to be used in permitting private docks along Georgia’s coast. (The vast majority of the more than 200 docks permitted annually are built under the PGP, so the requirements of that process are very critical to coastal protection.)

Public Awareness and Outreach

- ✓ Published four guest columns in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* on coastal environmental issues related to state programs and policies, reaching tens of thousands of readers throughout Georgia:
 - *Vogtle venture costs public* (March 2012)
 - *More facts needed before dredging* (April 2012)
 - *Poor choices hurt Georgia’s future* (June 2012)
 - *Reservoirs – Water supply or speculator bonanza?* (August 2012)
- ✓ Organized and hosted a public forum in Savannah on solar energy potential and legislative support needed in Georgia, attended by more than fifty alternative energy advocates and concerned citizens.
- ✓ Made a presentation to the Georgia Solar Energy Association at a special session of the annual state Environmental Conference held in Savannah. Comments made by the Center’s executive director focused on critical relationships between water resources and power production. Most in attendance were astounded to learn that, for many households in Georgia, more water is used by burning electricity than by turning on the tap – since coal and nuclear powered plants consume hundreds of millions of gallons daily in cooling operations.
- ✓ Spoke at a Savannah press conference against the use of seismic air guns in offshore oil and gas exploration.
- ✓ Endorsed and circulated numerous ‘action alerts’ to strengthen state and federal environmental laws.

Collaboration and Technical Assistance

- ✓ Co-sponsored a “Dirty Dozen” nomination for the Georgia Water Coalition, and assisted in preparing the Coalition’s *Dirty Dozen Report* by providing background information and graphics.
- ✓ Served on a Jekyll Island Authority task force to advise extensively in updating the Jekyll Island Master Plan.
- ✓ Continued playing a leadership role as an active member of Georgia DNR’s Coastal Advisory Council.
- ✓ Continued serving as financial manager and member of Save Georgia’s Coast, a collaborative that strengthens resource protection by coordinating regulatory enforcement efforts among six participating non-profit groups.
- ✓ Made a presentation to a class at the College of Coastal Georgia about research and analysis methods used at the Center to address environmental protection, climate change, and sustainability issues in this region.
- ✓ Reviewed and commented on a wide range of articles and reports, sharing results with dozens of fellow advocates.