



ASBPA members addressed sea level rise with Congress

The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) briefed members of Congress and their staffs about the impacts of sea level rise on Thursday in the House Science and Technology Committee hearing room.

The briefing is in response to a report released Jan. 16, 2009, by The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The report, *Coastal Sensitivity to Sea-Level Rise: A Focus on the Mid-Atlantic Region*, discusses the impacts of sea level rise on the nation's shorelines.

"The fact is that sea level has been fluctuating throughout geological time. There's nothing new there," said Nicole Elko, Ph.D., the coastal coordinator for Pinellas County, Fla. "What is new is that global sea level is now rising nearly twice as fast as it was in 1960."

The ASBPA will offer suggestions to the House committee on how to deal with the problem.

For the last 50 years, the country has managed eroding beaches through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Federal Beach Erosion Control Program. "Over the next 50 years, most beach nourishment projects will adapt to accelerating sea level rise with modest increases in volume and remain cost effective," Elko said. "Continued funding for the federal program is essential."