



Name
Title
Organization
Address

Dear :

Coastal managers in the State of Ohio face a variety of issues that are critical for maintaining the health and sustainability of their communities. The Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center (GLEFC) of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University is conducting a research project for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Program, the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Ohio Sea Grant College Program to assist them in developing a comprehensive education program that does not duplicate the efforts of other organizations, to identify new partners and foster new collaborations, and to build on their current educational efforts.

To provide *you* with the greatest opportunity to participate in the assessment process, we have chosen to conduct telephone interviews to gather information on the current training environment. Attached is a survey that the GLEFC is sending to providers of coastal resources management training PRIOR to the telephone interview. We are sending the survey to you beforehand so that you have an opportunity to read and reflect on the questions. The survey is four pages, and we expect that it will take approximately 15 minutes to conduct the telephone interview. We hope that you will take the time to assist us with our research. Participants will benefit from their assistance, since not only will we be sharing the results of the survey with you and your organization, but this project will form the basis for potential collaborations and partnerships between providers of Coastal Resources Management training in the future.

We have provided the following definitions to assist you in answering the questions accurately and consistently:

- 1) **Coastal Resources Management:** Coastal Resources Management is defined as the practice of making informed decisions that affect the use, function, and health of coastal resources and ecosystems.
- 2) **Coastal Decision-Maker:** Includes city, town or state officials, planners, volunteer board members, state and federal agency employees, legislators, and some "not-so-obvious" individuals such as landscapers, realtors, non-governmental officials, community and economic development volunteers and employees, and others.
- 3) **Training:** Instructional courses, events and learning experiences that expand the understanding of coastal decision makers and allow them to better understand the context of Coastal Resources Management. Training enhances the base of knowledge of coastal decision makers by allowing them to interact with experts in the field while networking with other professionals well-versed on coastal management issues.
- 4) **Course:** A program that meets regularly over a period of time, including special information days for elected officials and one-day workshops.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us with our research efforts. If you have any questions concerning this survey or project, please contact either me at (216) 687-2188 (kobrlc@ix.netcom.com) or Claudette Robey at (216) 875-9988 (robey65@urban.csuohio.edu). Once again thank you, and we look forward to our interview.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin O'Brien, Director
Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center