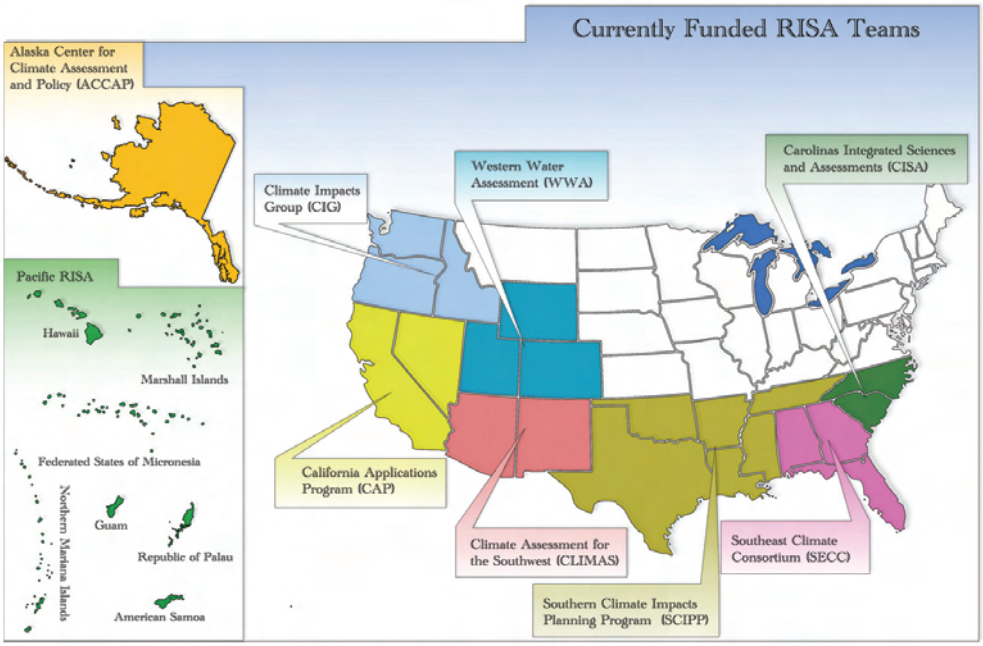
RISA was one of four federal programs praised for generating "original data on potential impacts and governance responses" to climate change, according to the National Research Council 2007 preliminary evaluation of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program.

Partnerships for Bridging Climate Science and Society

Impact

A more climate-literate public that prepares and adapts to change

With each passing year, communities deal with growing impacts of climate variability and change on water availability, wildfires, public health, agriculture, and energy issues. At the same time, climate research produces knowledge that could aid decision makers dealing with these issues. How can OAR make climate research useful and usable for the public?



Since the 1990s, OAR has worked to solve this conundrum through an innovative research and outreach program called the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program (RISA). Supported through OAR's Climate Program Office, today nine RISAs work to make science useful and usable on local and regional scales.

The knowledge RISA partners produce helps communities think broadly about ways to use climate science to mitigate risks. Each RISA project pairs scientists with regional and/or local stakeholders to address needs in their area. For example, RISAs provide the climate information that farmers use to plan seasons in advance to increase profitability and decrease risks. RISA scientists studying snow hydrology are developing cutting-edge hydrological models to aid water resource planning as well as anticipate, track, assess, and respond to drought. In addition, RISAs work with extension agents to address coastal impacts such as erosion and sea-level rise, help community planners meet growing energy needs, and help fishery operations and salmon recovery efforts.

Most RISA projects conduct workshops and training sessions in their regions, publish periodic seasonal outlooks and climate summaries, and develop tools that enable stakeholders to consider climate impacts information in their decisions. The result is shifting the paradigm of how decision makers at all levels use climate information to improve health, safety and quality of life.

RISAs help farmers, ranchers, and resource managers use climate information to produce the Nation's foods and fibers, and Pacific Islanders figure out how to weave climate information into their quest for sustainability.

Learn More:
www.climate.noaa.gov/cpo_pa/risa/