

CZMA CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL HAZARDS E-NEWS UPDATE, Vol. 3

The Coastal Programs Division of NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management distributes the CZMA Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update to keep state and territory coastal program managers and climate change/coastal hazards staff informed about climate change (as it pertains to coastal hazards) and coastal hazards activities. If you would like to receive the Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update, please e-mail christa.rabenold@noaa.gov. For previous issues, see the E-News archives at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/climatenewsletter.html>.

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NOAA UPDATES

OCRM Adds Climate Change to Web Site

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/climate.html>

OCRM has added climate change to the list of coastal issues addressed on its web site. Designed as a resource for coastal managers, as well as to inform the public about the effects of climate change on coastal habitats and communities, the page discusses climate change impacts such as sea level rise and shifting weather patterns. A section on OCRM activities explains some ways that OCRM is helping coastal and National Estuarine Research Reserve managers address climate change. Another section features case studies of NOAA state and local partners' climate change projects. Visitors to the site will also find links to other climate information

sites in the Resources section.

New Publication Aims to Broaden Thinking about Addressing Climate Change Impacts

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/magazine/climatechangestrategies.pdf>

The NOAA Coastal Services Center has released “Local Strategies for Addressing Climate Change” (15 pp.), a compilation of articles recently published in Coastal Services, the center’s trade journal for coastal resource managers. The purpose of the new publication is to illustrate examples of the tools, programs, and projects that managers are already using that address both direct and indirect effects of climate change.

NOAA Releases Report on Incorporating Climate Change into NOAA’s Stewardship Responsibilities

<http://spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/tm/SPO95.pdf>

“Incorporating Climate Change into NOAA’s Stewardship Responsibilities for Living Marine Resources and Coastal Ecosystems: A Strategy for Progress” (97 pp.) summarizes the findings, recommendations, and next steps that were identified through two internal workshops convened by NOAA in 2008. These workshops were motivated by internal and external calls for increased NOAA action to plan for and address climate change impacts on living marine resources and coastal communities and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Recommendations include increase internal and external collaboration and communication, establish regional approaches for working with our partners and addressing climate impacts, improve observations and monitoring, enhance understanding and predictions, and facilitate risk assessments and adaptation.

Workshop Materials Summarize Coastal Hazards Resilience Issues in Northeast

http://community.csc.noaa.gov/nroc/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=38&Itemid=55

Workshop presentations and proceedings (31 pp.) from the Coastal Hazards Resilience Workshop, hosted by the U.S. Northeast Regional Ocean Council and the NOAA Coastal Services Center and held in November 2008, are now available online. The purpose of the workshop was to better understand how the region might work collaboratively to improve its ability to withstand both severe coastal hazard events and more gradual impacts from climate change.

Study Shows Climate Change Impacts Are Irreversible

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/6/1704.full?sid=64a8a731-8ae6-45c1-93c4-dfe20b86b085>

According to a study by NOAA and French and Swiss researchers, even 1,000 years after carbon dioxide emissions stop, the impacts of changes in sea level, surface temperature, and rainfall will be felt on the world. “Irreversible Climate Change Due to Carbon Dioxide Emissions” (6 pp.), in the January 27, 2009, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, speaks of irreversible climate change due in large part to the behavior of the oceans. The report notes that the oceans have absorbed a lot of the heat of the atmosphere and about 80 percent of carbon emissions. Eventually, the oceans will begin to pump the heat back into the atmosphere. While the results do not mean fighting climate change is hopeless, they reinforce the need to act quickly.

OTHER FEDERAL UPDATES

EPA Offers Assistance for Smart Growth

http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/2009_sgia_rfa.htm

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking applications for technical assistance from communities that want to incorporate smart growth in their future development to meet environmental and other community goals. Eligible entities are tribal, local, regional, and state governments and nonprofit organizations that have a

demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity. Key areas in which communities are likely to benefit from technical assistance include climate change (mitigation and adaptation) and disaster resiliency. Selected communities or states will receive assistance in the form of a multiday visit from a team of experts organized by EPA and other national partners to work with local leaders. EPA plans to assist three to five communities over a 12-month period. Applications are due April 23, 2009.

National Academies Study Calls for Federal Climate Change Research to Address Response Strategies

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12595

“Restructuring Federal Climate Research to Meet the Challenges of Climate Change” (178 pp.) from the National Research Council’s Committee on Strategic Advice on the U.S. Climate Change Science Program suggests that the federal government’s climate change research program should broaden its focus to include research that would support actions needed to cope with climate change-related problems that will impact society, while building on its research to improve understanding of the causes and processes of climate change. Specifically, it calls for the U.S. Climate Change Science Program to establish a U.S. climate observing system; develop new modeling capabilities for regional- and decadal-scale forecasts; strengthen research on adaptation, mitigation, and vulnerability; initiate a periodic national assessment of climate impacts and responses; and routinely provide policymakers with crucial scientific information, tools, and forecasts.

National Committee on Levee Safety Releases Recommendations for National Levee Safety Program

<http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/ncls/>

“Recommendations for a National Levee Safety Program: A Report to Congress from the National Committee on Levee Safety” (104 pp.) was presented to Congress in January. The report, in response to the National Levee Safety Act of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, contains the recommendations and strategic plan for implementation for a National Levee Safety Program. Twenty recommendations fall within three main concepts: the need for leadership via a National Levee Safety Commission that provides for state delegated programs, national technical standards, risk communication, and coordinating environmental and safety concerns; the building of strong levee safety programs in all states that provide oversight, regulation, and critical levee safety processes; and a foundation of well-aligned federal agency programs and processes.

Climate Change, Natural Resources, and Coastal Management in the Northwest Workshop Materials Available

<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Climatechange/meetings/coastal.cfm>

In January, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey hosted a workshop on climate change, natural resources, and coastal management for Washington, Oregon, and California. The workshop spanned two days and consisted of various sessions on numerous topics related to coastal management. Video of the sessions and PowerPoint presentations are available on the web.

FEMA Grants \$5 Million for Sea Level Rise Study in North Carolina

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=47583>

The state of North Carolina will receive \$5 million for a statewide risk assessment and adaptation strategy demonstration of the potential impacts of climate change-induced sea level rise. The study, which will last approximately three years, will be managed by the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will use the results to assess the long-term fiscal implications of climate change as it affects the frequency and effects of natural disasters. Although the study is focused on the state of North Carolina, the results should be applicable to other coastal states. The study will

complement FEMA's ongoing study on the effect of climate change on the National Flood Insurance Program.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Oregon Releases Strategy for Coastal Climate Change Adaptation

<http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OCMP/index.shtml>

"Climate Ready Communities: A Strategy for Adapting to Impacts of Climate Change on the Oregon Coast" (24 pp.) from the Oregon Coastal Management Program was created to help coastal decision-makers, legislators, and the public prepare for climate change. Specifically, the document makes a case for adaptation, looks at the likely effects of climate change on Oregon coasts, and promotes a strategy that consists of coordinated planning and action by coastal cities and counties, state agencies, businesses, individuals, and nongovernmental organizations, framing the basic steps needed to prepare adaptation plans and to implement them over time.

Public Policy Institute of California Reviews California's Readiness for Climate Change

<http://www.ppica.org/main/publication.asp?i=755>

"California Coastal Management with a Changing Climate" (40 pp.), examines the challenges California's coastal managers will face as a result of a changing climate, the adaptation tools that are available, and the extent to which federal, state, regional, and local institutions are prepared for changing conditions. Priorities identified in the report include inventorying coastal resources to provide a firmer basis for balancing decisions on property and habitat protection, identifying opportunities for coastal habitat migration, assessing the vulnerabilities of existing and planned coastal infrastructure, providing planning guidelines on sea level rise to agencies with coastal assets (including local governments, infrastructure providers, and environmental managers), easing the rules on local funding of flood management investments, and experimenting with alternatives to armoring as a way of managing the changing coastline. This report was prepared as part of the Preparing California for a Changing Climate project. Other associated reports are also available.

New Publication Guides Climate Change Outreach and Communications

<http://www.icleiusa.org/action-center/engaging-your-community/outreach-and-communications-guide>

"Climate Change Outreach and Communications Guide" (39 pp.) from ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability is a tool to help local governments effectively communicate climate information to their constituencies. The guide contains an array of steps and methodologies for communication and outreach efforts as well as a compilation of best practices from around the United States.

Environment Canada Issues Community Guidebook for Climate Change Adaptation

<http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=xsexCSatHjo%3d&tabid=2455&mid=5415&language=en-US>

"Canadian Communities' Guidebook for Adaptation to Climate Change" (104 pp.) is designed to help local governments incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation into planning and operations. Intended users include local governments, planners, policymakers, and community leaders who aim to address local development issues in a sustainable way and are concerned about climate change.

Database of Impacts Associated with Observed Changes in Climate Now Available

<http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/ddc/observed/index.html>

The fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) documented observed responses to climate change. The database of responses underlying the report's conclusions is now available

online through the IPCC Data Distribution Center. Responses in physical systems include shrinking glaciers, melting permafrost, shifts in spring peak river discharge associated with earlier snowmelt, lake and river warming, and increases in coastal erosion.

New York City Releases Reports on Climate Change Risk and Wetlands

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/html/downloads/download.shtml>

In support of New York City's PlaNYC, the mayor's comprehensive sustainability plan, two recent reports examine the city's wetlands and climate change risk:

- "Climate Risk Information" (74 pp.) is the first in a series of three workbooks, which provides climate change projections for New York City and identifies some of the potential risks to the city's critical infrastructure posed by climate change.
- "New York City Wetlands: Regulatory Gaps and Other Threats" (44 pp.) studies gaps in wetlands protections in New York City and explores options for filling them. It also examines wetland functions and challenges such as sea level rise and tidal wetland migration.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Coastal Development Strategies Conference

Biloxi, Mississippi

May 12-13, 2009

<http://www.dmr.state.ms.us/CMP/CRMP/Conference/09/conference.htm>

ASFPM Annual Conference: Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses

Orlando, Florida

June 7-12, 2009

<http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/Orlando.asp>

Share Your Thoughts

If you have news that you would like to include in future updates or suggestions about the type of information you would like to see here, please e-mail christa.rabenold@noaa.gov.