

CZMA CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL HAZARDS E-NEWS UPDATE #4

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 Update archive at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/climatenewsletter.html>.

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NOAA UPDATES**CZMA Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update Now Online**

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/climatenewsletter.html>

Back issues of the CZMA Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update are now being archived and are available on NOAA's Ocean and Coastal Resource Management web site.

NOAA's Climate Program Office Requests Input from Policy Makers on Research Priorities

http://www.cpo.noaa.gov/index.jsp?pg=/news/news_index.jsp&news=2009/3-30_request_sustained.html

http://www.cpo.noaa.gov/index.jsp?pg=/news/news_index.jsp&news=2009/3-30_reques_climate.html

NOAA's Climate Program Office is soliciting information from stakeholders, including state coastal managers, that will help them develop priorities for a limited set of academic/research centers that work with

NOAA to improve its capabilities in aspects of climate, climate prediction, and efforts to bring climate science and information into policy and decision making. In a second request, they are seeking information on state-of-the-art climate risk management research and practices on timescales ranging from weeks to decades and adaptation techniques and strategies for dealing with climate change in developing countries. Responses to the requests, which can be read in their entirety online, are due May 15, 2009.

May 24–30 is Hurricane Preparedness Week 2009

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml>

Prior to the onset of the Atlantic hurricane season, NOAA's National Hurricane Center and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will sponsor Hurricane Preparedness Week to inform the public about hurricane hazards and provide knowledge that can be used to take action to reduce the effects of a hurricane. Each day of the week will focus on a different aspect of hurricane hazards and preparedness. This information is already available on the public web site (see link above) and can be used to tailor more targeted preparedness programs.

Report Calls for Federal Assistance for Local Planning for Climate Change

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12626

"Informing Decisions in a Changing Climate" (200 pp.) from the National Research Council suggests that the scientific priorities and practices of federal agencies need to change so that the scientific community can provide better support to decision makers in managing emerging climate risks. It concludes that the federal government's efforts should be undertaken through a new integrated and interagency initiative with both service and research elements and offers nine recommendations to facilitate effective development of climate-related decision-support capabilities. The report was sponsored by NOAA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The prepublication version of the report is currently available for purchase, final copies can be preordered. Read the report for free online.

New Guide Aims to Improve Public Climate Literacy

http://www.climate.noaa.gov/index.jsp?pg=/education/edu_index.jsp&edu=literacy

"Climate Literacy: The Essential Principles of Climate Sciences - A Guide for Individuals and Communities" (13 pp.) from the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (compiled by an interagency group led by NOAA) seeks to inform individuals and communities about Earth's climate, impacts of climate change, and approaches to adaptation and mitigation. It does so by highlighting seven essential principles: 1) The sun is the primary source of energy for earth's climate system; 2) climate is regulated by complex interactions among components of the earth system; 3) life on earth depends on, is shaped by, and affects climate; 4) climate varies over space and time through both natural and manmade processes; 5) our understanding of the climate system is improved through observations, theoretical studies, and modeling; 6) human activities are impacting the climate system; and 7) climate change will have consequences for the earth system and human lives. For print copies of the guide, e-mail outreach@noaa.gov or call (301) 713-1208.

South Carolina Becomes Fourth State to Earn NOAA StormReady Designation

<http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/>

In March, NOAA's National Weather Service recognized South Carolina as the fourth state to be StormReady. StormReady is a nationwide community preparedness program that uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather. Over the past seven years, each of South Carolina's 46 counties completed the program to strengthen the state's ability to protect life and property during severe weather. Other StormReady states include Hawaii, Delaware, and Florida. To achieve

StormReady status, participating communities must meet national guidelines, which include maintaining a multitiered communications system to ensure immediate notification of watches and warnings as well as developing and promoting severe weather safety plans, awareness activities, and safety training.

New Report Highlights Climate Change Adaptation in Great Lakes Region

<http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/news/2009/08-climate-change.html>

“Preparing for Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region” (32 pp.) from Michigan Sea Grant summarizes the proceedings of a June 2008 workshop that involved representatives from Great Lakes foundations, nongovernmental organizations, agencies, and universities. The findings are intended to help policy makers, natural resource managers, and decision makers at the state and local level as they adopt and revise policies to successfully adapt to climate change. Topics covered include water conservation and efficiency, wetland restoration, land-use planning and community development, and state fiscal policy. The report includes guiding principles for adapting to climate change, recommended areas for policy change, ways to increase adaptive capacity, and implementation approaches.

OTHER FEDERAL UPDATES

USFWS Seeks to Bring Coastal Barrier Resources System Maps into Digital Age

http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/coastal_barrier.html

On April 7, 2009, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) released its “Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project” (190 pp.) and announced the start of a 90-day public comment period. The report provides a background of the system, presents the challenges associated with the existing maps and the benefits of digital maps, explains digital mapping data needs, outlines the digital mapping protocols and methodology, presents the results of the pilot project including the draft digital maps, and identifies the next steps for comprehensive map modernization. It includes draft revised maps for 70 units (approximately 10 percent of the entire system) and a framework for modernizing the remainder of the maps. The 70 pilot project units are located in Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana. Comments on the report and draft maps can be submitted until July 6, 2009.

Report Recommends Realigning U.S. Climate Change Science Program Research

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

“Restructuring Federal Climate Research to Meet the Challenges of Climate Change” (266 pp.) from the National Research Council finds that there is a need for greater integration between science and decision making when it comes to limiting or adapting to climate change and its impacts. The report, written by a committee established at the request of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program to evaluate the progress of the program and to identify future priorities, proposes six priorities for restructuring the U.S. climate change research program: 1) reorganize the program around integrated scientific-societal issues; 2) establish a U.S. climate observing system; 3) support a new generation of coupled earth system models; 4) strengthen research on adaptation, mitigation, and vulnerability; 5) initiate a national assessment of the risks and costs of climate change impacts and options to respond; and 6) coordinate federal efforts to provide climate information, tools, and forecasts routinely to decision makers.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

International Competition Seeks Ideas for Responding to Sea Level Rise

<http://risingtidescompetition.com/>

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission is hosting an international design competition for ideas about how to respond to sea level rise in San Francisco Bay and beyond. The Rising Tides ideas competition is open to anyone, including architects, ecologists, coastal engineers, civil engineers, biologists, landscape architects, planners, artists, developers, and builders, as well as ordinary citizens. Design proposals should solve a meaningful sea level rise problem, while being environmentally smart, simply designed, and transferable to other estuaries beyond San Francisco Bay. Submissions are due June 29, 2009, and will be evaluated based on creativity, adaptability, sustainability, design, and usefulness.

Connecticut Publishes Climate Change Adaptation Fact Sheets

<http://www.ctclimatechange.com/Adaptation.html>

The Connecticut Department of Environment Protection has developed a series of initial climate change adaptation fact sheets, “Facing Our Future” (51 pp.), that detail current observations and provide some cursory recommendations for alternative approaches to foster adaptation at the local and regional level. These fact sheets address overlapping technical areas or categories: biodiversity and habitat, fisheries, forestry, infrastructure, natural coastal shoreline environment, outdoor recreation, water resources, and wildlife.

Report Estimates Losses to Coastal California Due to Sea Level Rise

http://www.pacinst.org/reports/sea_level_rise/

In “The Impacts of Sea-Level Rise on the California Coast” (113 pp.), the Pacific Institute evaluates the areas at risk from sea level rise on the California coast and San Francisco Bay.

The findings of the report, which was commissioned by the Ocean Protection Council, the Public Interest Research Program of the California Energy Commission, and the California Department of Transportation, are based on medium to high greenhouse gas emissions scenarios from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change but do not reflect the worst-case sea level rise that could occur. The report includes an assessment of the population, infrastructure, and property at risk and provides an estimate of the cost of protecting those areas. It also offers a set of recommendations to inform policy and decision makers as they develop land-use plans for coastal regions.

Two New Web Sites Aim to Inform Texans about Climate Change and Sustainability

<http://www.TexasClimate.org/>

<http://www.TexasClimateNews.org/>

The Houston Advanced Research Center has launched two new web sites on climate change and sustainability to help meet Texas’ research, information, and news needs. Both sites will give special attention to the risks and opportunities for Texas in the changing climate of the twenty-first century. The Texas Climate Initiative site targets Texas educators, policy makers, and others working in the areas of climate and sustainability. Texas Climate News is an online magazine designed to benefit all Texans with original journalism and regularly updated links to other reports.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Texas Coastal Conference 2009: Caring for the Coast

Galveston, Texas

June 4-5, 2009

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/tcc/hottopics.html>

GIS Tools for Strategic Conservation Planning

Charleston, South Carolina

June 23-26, 2009

http://www.csc.noaa.gov/training/gis_tools.html

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.