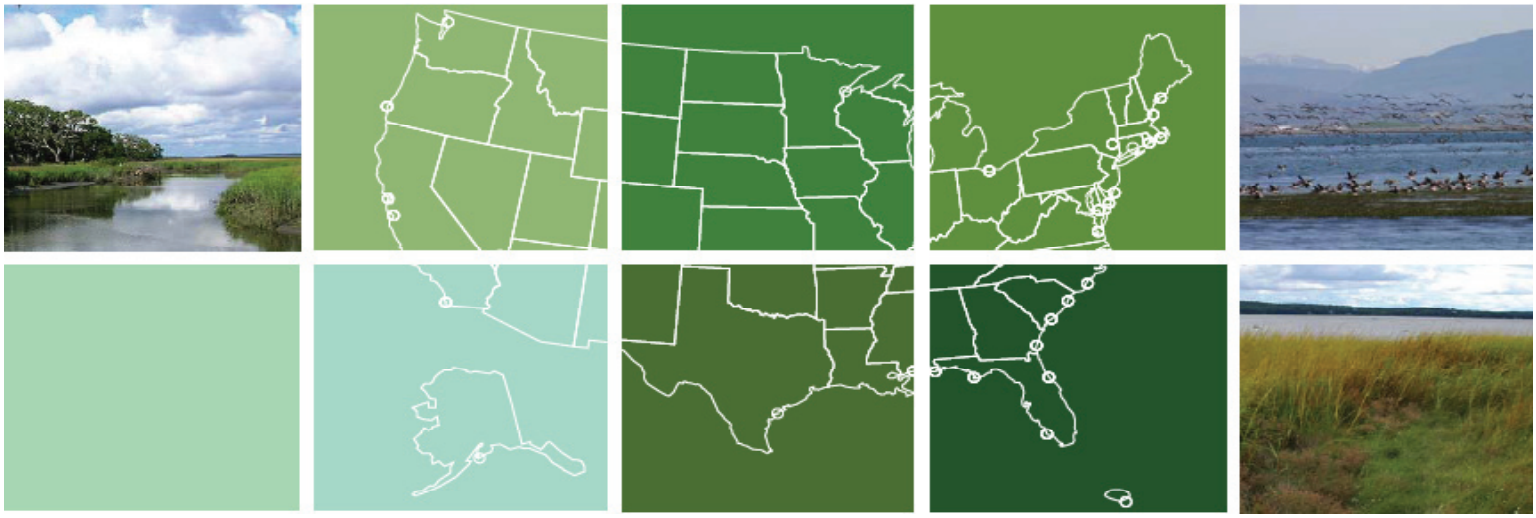
National Estuarine Research Reserve System

NERRS Science Collaborative

Putting Science to Work in Coastal Communities



The Science Collaborative is a new National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) program that enhances the capacity of Reserves to assist local communities with science-based solutions to urgent coastal management problems, such as water pollution, flooding, and coastal erosion in a time of climate change. Administered through a five-year cooperative agreement with the University of New Hampshire (UNH), the program began in September 2009.

The program is designed to enhance the ability of NERRS sites to help local communities address coastal resource management problems through the use of a process that engages the people who produce the science with those who need it. In so doing, the program seeks to make the linking of science to management decisions more efficient, timely, and effective.

How the Program Works

***Competitive funding*:** The program uses a competitive process to identify, fund, and foster collaborative, place-based science to address local environmental challenges with broader relevance. The program's annual Requests for Proposals (RFP) insures that researchers and intended users of the science work together to define a problem, identify related science and technology needs, implement the project, and apply the results. The first funded projects will begin in summer 2010.

Transfer: The Science Collaborative is working with outreach specialists, trainers, and communicators to create best practices for transferring information about the local, place-based science that it funds—not only research results, but also methods, collaborative practices, and evaluation tools—throughout the NERRS and the broader coastal management community.

Training for the Integration of Decision-Making and Ecosystem Science (TIDES): The program supports a UNH-based education program focused on helping individuals develop the skills needed to link science-based information to coastal resource management decisions. TIDES includes a master's degree track combining academic coursework with a place-based internship at a Reserve. It also includes a certification track to accommodate career professionals already working in the field. The first group of students will begin in fall 2010.

Stormwater management: Stormwater has been identified as the greatest contributor to the decline in coastal water quality nationwide. The program is working with NOAA and the NERRS to identify opportunities to support the NERRS in making a national contribution to understanding how to best manage stormwater in coastal communities. The results of this assessment will be ready in spring 2010.

Contact Us

General program & stormwater questions
Richard Langan, director
603/862-0190; richard.langan@unh.edu
Dwight Trueblood, NOAA Program Manager
603/862-3580; dwight.trueblood@noaa.gov

Competitive funding opportunity
Kalle Matso
603/862-3508; kalle.matso@unh.edu
Justine Stadler
603/862-2817; justine.stadler@unh.edu

Transfer
Dolores Leonard
603/862-3685; dolores.leonard@unh.edu

Certification and training program
Mimi Becker
603/862-3950; mimi.becker@unh.edu