

COASTAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION NEEDS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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KEYWORDS: Climate, coastal management, climate change, climate services, vulnerability and adaptation, data, information services

This café session will provide an opportunity for coastal managers and other conference participants to contribute to NOAA/NESDIS National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) efforts to identify and respond to critical needs for climate information to enhance the resilience of coastal communities. This café session provides an opportunity for NOAA personnel engaged in climate services development to explore some of the climate issues described in the recent CSO report and individual discussions with representatives of state CZM programs. This session for coastal managers would provide a coastal sector contribution to an ongoing series of NCDC-sponsored climate data user conferences which began with a November 2007 conference in Asheville, North Carolina focused on the climate information needs of the energy, transportation and insurance.

The session would begin with opening remarks provided by the NCDC session organizer and a representative of state coastal managers to help stimulate the dialogue. Participants would then engage in a facilitated discussion of the following key issues:

What are the most critical current and anticipated climate-related challenges and opportunities facing coastal managers;

What information gaps currently limit the ability of coastal managers to respond to those challenges or capitalize on those opportunities;

What climate data products and information services would be most helpful in the near-term; and

What steps should NCDC and its NOAA partners take to provide meaningful climate information services to support adaptation in the future.

Participants will initially explore these topics in small groups (tables) and then jointly explore findings and recommendations in plenary. The NCDC session organizer will provide a summary of key themes, challenges and opportunities developed during the session. This session summary will then be used by NCDC and NOAA to help guide the development of climate services products and information services.

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*Proceedings of Coastal Zone 09
Boston, Massachusetts
July 19 to 23, 2009*

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