

## **ADAPTIVE TRAINING METHODOLOGIES FOR DYNAMIC COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

*Lisa Auermuller, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Rebekah Walker-Szivak, ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve*

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In the face of rapidly changing economic, environmental and climate conditions, coastal community leaders are faced with increased challenges. This panel session will review a variety of program approaches and provide examples for ways in which these programs have been adapted to meet the dynamic needs of coastal decision makers.

Presentations will be given by coordinators from the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). The NERRS is a network of representative estuarine habitats protected and managed for the purpose of long-term research, education, and coastal stewardship. Established by Congress in 1972 as part of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the Reserve System is administered as a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the coastal states. The NERRS Coastal Training Program (CTP) provides up-to-date scientific information and skill-building opportunities to individuals who are responsible for making decisions that affect coastal resources. Through this program, the Reserve System can ensure that coastal decision-makers have the knowledge and tools they need to address critical resource management issues of concern to local communities. As providers of science-based information, tools and services for these decision makers, the CTP Coordinators need to be adaptive to the changing information needs of their audiences.

Each day, coastal community leaders confront decisions regarding land use, sustainable growth, water quality and quantity, climate change, and coastal hazards. As the need for resources and information arises, CTP coordinators need to be responsive with science-based information and must provide it in a way that matches audience training preferences. Coastal training program delivery formats often include formal seminars, workshops, online courses, focus groups, tool development, and ongoing technical assistance. The appropriate dissemination methodology is determined based on ongoing audience feedback and assessments, as well as consideration of the community and program assets. Providing science-based information that meets their needs and plays to the strengths of the community equips coastal decision makers to better handle both present and future issues.

Lisa Auermuller  
Coastal Training Program Coordinator  
Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve  
130 Great Bay Blvd.  
Tuckerton, NJ 08087

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*auermull@marine.rutgers.edu*  
609-812-0649 X204