

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES: A PRESENTATION PANEL TO DISCUSS RISK, VULNERABILITY AND THE ROLE OF ADAPTATION IN ADDRESSING COASTAL HAZARDS

*Heather Stirratt, Great Lakes Region, NOAA Coastal Services Center
Pat Collins, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

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Several recent workshops and public discussions have focused on climate change in the Great Lakes region. Many of these forums have sought to document information needs, ongoing research, and potential impacts. Issues pertaining to coastal infrastructure, hazards, and community public works have been identified as symptomatic of a changing climate in the region. Very little attention has been devoted to risk and vulnerability assessments and the human dimension of climate change. A discussion is needed to document the risks associated with climate change in this region and determine the best management practices and adaptation strategies needed to enhance community resilience.

A panel session on climate change in the Great Lakes region could focus on (1) climate change case studies that include an analysis of economic impacts, (2) risk and vulnerability assessments, and (3) best management practices and adaptation plans. The resulting information could be used to identify risk information gaps, prioritize adaptation strategies, and determine the need for additional decision making tools. Panelists will be asked to provide examples of how regional partnerships can be leveraged to meet the challenges of a changing climate and cite examples where such partnerships are already underway.

Heather Stirratt
Great Lakes Regional Coordinator at the NOAA Coastal Services Center
1735 Lake Dr. West
Chanhassen, MN 55317
Heather.Stirratt@noaa.gov
(952) 361-6610 ext 231