



**Aligning State & NOAA Capacities to Address Priority Coastal Issues
September 7-8, 2011 - Silver Spring, Maryland
Meeting Summary**

Meeting Overview

Co-sponsored by a cooperative agreement between the National Ocean Service (NOS) and Coastal States Organization, (CSO), this two-day meeting was designed to build stronger relationships and mutual awareness between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Coastal Management Program State partners about the relevant capabilities and needs for state ocean management planning and coastal climate change adaptation. A secondary goal was to identify points of leverage and action for state and federal parties to take to better align funding and investment in coastal management at the national, regional and state levels. The meeting was structured around three major activities: 1) plenary discussions; 2) small-group roundtables focused on individual NOAA programs or services; and 3) one-on-one meetings between states and NOAA staff. The list of participants can be found in Appendix A.

Plenary Discussions:

Welcome: Donna Wieting, Acting Director of NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), welcomed participants, stating that the workshop was designed to ensure that OCRM's products and services are aligned with states' needs, and to enable state managers to learn more about OCRM's capabilities. She stressed the importance of partnerships and the desire to learn how NOAA programs can best reach state users.

State survey: Braxton Davis, Chair of CSO, presented a summary of a survey of state participants conducted in advance of this meeting. The survey revealed that while there have been many partnerships between states and NOAA over the years, including the CSO-NOS cooperative agreements, there are also NOAA programs that many states are unaware of or not using. Braxton mentioned that, in the current economic climate, it is key that states and federal agencies align their capabilities and noted that state programs have created much innovation in areas such as Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, general coastal planning, sustainable energy development, fisheries management, climate adaptation and more. He also underlined the importance of NOAA staff understanding the State's role and position in implementing NOAA's coastal mission "on-the-ground" and emphasized that states are engaged in implementing federal priorities. A summary of the survey results can be found in Appendix B. One-page descriptions of each state's ocean planning and coastal climate adaptation activities, needs, and priorities can be found at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/coastal.html>.

NOAA staff: A series of brief presentations were given on the programs to be discussed at the meeting's roundtables. These were followed by two case studies of effective state-federal partnerships. Chris Caldwell of the National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS) presented efforts by the NCCOS biogeography branch, working with state programs, to map species distribution in several states, including California, Massachusetts, New York and Virginia, for use in planning. Mimi D'Iorio of the Marine Protected Areas Center presented the Hawaii

Coastal Use Mapping Project in which trainings and community engagement were used to gather data that was then mapped for use in decision making.

Roundtable Discussions and General Questions about NOAA Products and Services

Seven roundtable sessions were held over the course of the afternoon of Day One and the morning of Day Two. Each session was 30 minutes long, and participants could choose one of four different NOAA programs or services during each session. A total of 21 different NOAA programs and services were offered for roundtable discussion (several programs/services were offered more than once). In each roundtable, a NOAA staffer gave a short overview of the program or service and the discussion was then opened for questions and answers. A full list of roundtable topics can be found in Appendix C and more detailed descriptions of the NOAA programs/services can be found at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/coastal.html>.

While the details of each roundtable discussion were program-specific, a number of common questions emerged regarding information that state participants wanted about each NOAA program or service. These included:

- **Problem/Purpose** – Purpose of this program or service; problem it solves; ways that it differs from other similar programs.
- **Entry Points** – Application/engagement method; lead time requirements; NOAA contact(s); methods for contact (how and when); limitations on who can access.
- **Cost/Funding** – Program or service cost; funding source(s); expected duration of funding availability; match or other requirements; outside funding partners (such as foundations).
- **Geographic Scope** – Geographic area included; offshore and inland boundaries.
- **Execution** – Methodology; roles of NOAA staff, state staff, and others; stakeholder involvement; staff technical capabilities needed (e.g. mapping skills); technical resources needed (e.g. particular software to run a certain mapping system); ease of use for varying skill levels; contracting and workplan development methods.
- **Examples and Lessons** – Examples of program use; contacts/references in those locations; lessons learned about executing the program.
- **Future Program Changes** – Funding; staffing; scale; or structure.
- **Data** – Types of data collected; source of the data; public availability of data.
- **Final Products** – Form of final product; replicability; follow-on activities (who carries on the work, or does it wrap up?); identification of recipients of results; ways the work is incorporated into other programs.
- **Other Federal Partners** – Identification of NOAA’s closest federal partners for this program.

State participants suggested that a table to clarify the specific scientific and management issues addressed by each NOAA program or service would be useful, such as shown here:

Planning & Management Issues	NOAA program A	NOAA Program B	NOAA program C	NOAA program D
<i>Climate</i>		X		X
<i>Water quality</i>	X	X		
<i>Land Use</i>			X	
<i>Etc.</i>		X	X	

States' Input to NOAA

Throughout the two-day meeting, participants shared thoughts about how they think NOAA might better explain, manage or deliver its important products and services. The following list captures the range of individual ideas. It should be noted that this list may include suggestions for actions that participants were unaware that NOAA is already undertaking.

- **Guidance Materials:** NOAA could compile a guidebook (and/or other guidance materials) to NOAA services, that includes:
 - Listings for each program or service that provide the details outlined above.
 - A table cross-referencing NOAA programs with major topical areas, such as the one shown above.
 - Design features and guidance to help state managers differentiate among NOAA programs that, on the surface, might appear similar or redundant.

In addition to assisting states, the guidebook could support NOAA's budget requests by tracking and documenting value provided by NOAA to the states.

- **Regional Information:** States indicated a need for NOAA to provide information about products and services available in specific regions, with contact information for NOAA regional offices and staff.
- **Federal Agency Redundancy:** State participants asked about apparent redundancies among federal agencies. Examples included human use mapping of the coasts, and NOAA and the former BOEMRE both providing funds to coastal communities. States would like to see more coordination across agencies as well as within NOAA.
- **NOAA Priorities:** The states would like to better understand the federal priorities guiding NOAA, and how states or regions could make it compelling for NOAA to bring a particular program or service to them. NOAA can help states create mutually satisfying state-NOAA partnerships by clearly articulating federal needs and interests.
- **Scalability:** Participants expressed interest in ensuring that NOAA programs and services can be used by states with a range of budget capabilities. Descriptions of which parts of large-scale projects could be used at smaller scales or at lesser degrees of complexity would be useful.
- **NOAA Organizational Structure:** Participants discussed the structural challenge created by the different organizational structures of NOAA and the states (NOAA is organized around somewhat compartmentalized programs, whereas state coastal programs and management are often organized in a more integrated manner). Also, states sometimes have difficulty distinguishing between NOAA programs that, from a "50,000' level," appear redundant. States would like to see a NOAA organizational chart so they can better understand NOAA's structure. There was discussion about whether it would be beneficial for NOAA to explore reducing redundancies among programs (where they might exist) and to provide greater clarity to the states about differences among programs. It was mentioned that NOAA has worked on this issue with its 2008-2009 Coastal Strategy, and this meeting is part of NOAA's effort to bring that work to partners and colleagues.
- **Research:** There is a long-running disconnect between coastal research and the coastal management community. NOAA could help facilitate greater communication and understanding between the coastal research and management communities.
- **Data:** States want data to be accessible, scaled in a way that managers can use, and provided through tools that make it easier to use. There are specific pieces of data, such

as LIDAR, that a lot of states are seeking, and the need for accurate benchmarks for that vertical data was noted. See Appendix B for additional information about data and mapping needs.

Feedback on State-NOAA Engagement and Relationships

There was discussion about different ways that NOAA and states engage in the context of three models. The first model, described as the traditional approach, has NOAA serving as a trainer or provider of general information to people from different states or regions through trainings, written materials and online resources. The second model, which some suggested moving towards, is the “consultant” model,” in which NOAA staff provide services that are directly relevant to a state’s programs or efforts, tailoring materials and support to those specific needs. The third model, the “partner” model, was suggested by some as the most effective way for NOAA and states to jointly achieve Coastal Zone Management priorities and alignment across state and national scales. In this type of engagement, NOAA and state program staff jointly carry out a project that of mutual interest.

Given the variety of NOAA programs and services, there likely will continue to be multiple ways in which NOAA staff engages with state programs. However, the state participants expressed particular interest in the more involved, intensive forms of engagement (consultant and partnerships). These assist states directly and are tailored in ways that offer greater value to states. These are also approaches that are most likely to result in transfer of expertise from NOAA staff to state staff, so that NOAA capacities become embedded in state programs, enabling NOAA to then move on to offer services to another state.

Specific themes discussed included:

- States want support that is relevant to their specific priorities, not just relevant to generalized national priorities. (i.e., the consultant model would enable services to be more specific to the localized needs.)
- The emergence of regional NOAA staff in recent years is a step toward helping NOAA staff (a) understand both the broad view and the essential details of state programs and (b) identify ways to assist the states. This regional structure helps states work closely with NOAA by enabling the various individuals to build meaningful relationships.
- Because states are organized differently, greater assistance is needed to help states understand and access NOAA services.
- NOAA should highlight the ways in which its programs and services could help states meet their performance measures.
- There is a lack of coordination with Federal Funding Opportunities, e.g. agencies/programs may fund the same project in different places or with different partners, and all parties ultimately find out about the duplication the hard way. It would be helpful if CSO would help coordinate with federal agencies on this front.
- As federal funding diminishes, states are increasingly forced to seek funding partners outside of the federal government.

Future Actions

Participants provided suggestions for how to continue to strengthen NOAA-state communication and relationships following this meeting. The actions listed below build upon the ideas described in the preceding sections of this document:

- Develop ongoing processes for states to more easily connect with NOAA programs and resources. Continue the kind of interaction and alignment that has taken place at this meeting. Formalize how NOAA and the states work on alignment and collaboration. Suggestions for a future meeting like this one included:
 - Create a matrix of NOAA services & state needs.
 - Include other federal agencies (at a minimum expand the participation within Department of Commerce). Each of NOAA's programs should identify key federal partners they work with.
- Consider using other venues that could include discussions like this, such as the state program managers meeting and CSO member meetings.
- Have OCRM and CSO take on leading roles to help NOAA and the states align priorities.
- Provide financial resources such as the CSO-NOAA cooperative agreement and travel money for states, as these are crucial to enable states to have these conversations with NOAA.
- Discuss ways to change business practices to keep NOAA and the coastal community energized, such as packaging information to be helpful to coastal management programs and changing practices with Coastal Programs Division specialists to keep this effort going.
- Work over the next six months to help facilitate Coastal Zone grant awards and connections with NOAA services.
- Assess whether state and federal coastal management investments are maximizing their outcomes, i.e. getting the best "bang for the buck" on the ground.
- Utilize informal partnership structures for states and programs to benefit from community knowledge, as these can stretch money, and increase resources and capacity.
- Better understand the different models of NOAA-state engagement described in the previous section (trainer, consultant, partner), their implications, and which ones are appropriate in different situations, while ensuring that there is clarity about what NOAA can and cannot offer in different contexts.

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Appendix B: Survey Results Summary: State/Territory Use of NOAA Products and Services for Climate Change and Ocean Management¹

Engagement by states and territories with NOAA varies widely: some programs use NOAA products and services extensively while others do so rarely, other than interaction with OCRM and CSC. It has been suggested that tools could be developed to provide more orientation, such as a catalog of all NOAA services and products, including contact info and web links.

1. Key NOAA products or services used related to ocean management and climate adaptation

Please note that some respondents mentioned working with specific NOAA offices without identifying the products used, so there are likely other products and services used that are not on this list.

National Weather Service

- Coordination with NWS for inundation mapping
- National Hurricane Center

Coastal Services Center

- Fellowship Program
- Climate Adaptation webinars and tools
- Workshops (joint development and staff attendance)
- StormSmart Coast (website development)
- Software and data: LIDAR, NSPECT, Digital Coast and CCAP
- CMSP website and workgroups
- Multi-purpose marine cadastre
- Legislative Atlas
- Vulnerability assessments roadmap

NERRS

- Coastal Training Program

NCCOS

- Biogeography branch

CELCP

- Integrating climate variability planning into State CELCP plans

¹ This summary presents responses from fifteen states and territories to a survey distributed in preparation for a NOAA/Coastal States Organization meeting on September 7 and 8 to discuss state/territory-NOAA coordination. This summary was compiled by the meeting facilitators (Jeff Edelstein and Ona Ferguson of the Consensus Building Institute) and is intended solely for use at the meeting.

Other

- 309 program
- National Data Buoy Center
- now COAST
- NPS pollution control program
- Office of Coast Survey
- Office of Coastal Resource Management
- Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
- Pacific Region Climate Data Center
- Pacific Services Center
- Participatory mapping resources
- Resiliency workshops
- Sea Grant
- Vessel navigation safety and oil spill prevention, preparedness and response (products and classes)
- Watershed Institutes

2. What has worked well for your state/territory using NOAA services or aligning with NOAA priorities?

- Support for regional activities, such as facilitating data sharing and “lessons learned”
- NOAA data and information resources
- CSC help with local activities
- Wide variety of national CZM priorities facilitates state-federal alignment or priorities
- Alignment with CMSP and ecosystem restoration
- Flexibility from NOAA for island states
- NOAA help developing state performance measures for CZM
- Informal partnerships
- NOAA support for capacity-building
- Fellows

3. What could be improved about using NOAA services or aligning with NOAA priorities?

- More consistency in approaches between state and federal efforts; for instance CMSP and ROG are not as high priorities for some states as for the federal government.
- More consistency/coordination between Federal agencies (getting better)
- Continuing data sharing outside of meetings (now being addressed by data sharing networks and tools)
- Data could be provided in the right scale, more implementable format; many CSC products are not in a usable GIS format
- State may not have staff or technical capacity (software) to use NOAA's data
- CZM an outmoded structure for dealing with coastal/ocean issues (e.g. Climate Change & CMSP); focusing instead on sections 306 and 309
- NOAA guidance sometimes confusing
- States not kept up to speed about NOAA's priorities, e.g. lack of information provided about NOAA *Next Generation* strategic plan
- Earlier funding guidance to states/territories (such as 1 year instead of 6 weeks)
- Administrative and reporting requirements for small scale state programs can be a burden

4. Tools and services needed to accomplish state/territory priorities:

Many respondents identified the need for data (including formatting and translation) and mapping, as well as funding sources. Specific needs included:

Overarching support:

- CMSP: GIS support; guidance on what should be included
- Geospatial information management system (to access, download and view data)
- Training by NOAA staff on data management tools
- Guidance on NOAA tools and services available
- NOAA staff to act as project specific consultants rather than just trainers (travel to training sessions is increasingly prohibitive; on-line trainings are too generic)
- NOAA to reinforce state programs' efforts to gain legislative and gubernatorial support.

Modeling, mapping and data

- Climate modeling tools (SLR, weather patterns, etc. enabling scaling of data to subregional or local level)
- Inundation maps (SLR and storm surge)
- High-quality LIDAR data of adequate coverage as the basis for simulation work
- Simulation tools for more dynamic impacts such as open-coast inundation and erosion (of beaches and bluffs) due to sea level rise and storm events
- Inventory of distribution and composition of estuarine habitats
- Economic valuation methodologies for nearshore fisheries and recreational uses
- More ocean monitoring (IOOS) data (example: more meteorological stations in the Central Gulf)
- Bathymetric data
- Tide gauges to monitor inflows
- Wetlands inventories (marsh migration & degradation)
- Integration of ADCIRC modeling and SLAMM
- SLR impacts on floodplains (rivers drainage capacity).
- Bleaching event information
- Sea surface and tributary temperature data

Planning and engagement

- CELCP plans: Guidance on incorporating coastal adaptation
- Engagement techniques (i.e., the social science aspect of effectively communicating impacts of climate change)
- Data/tool sharing clearinghouses to avoid "reinventing the wheel" and ensure that work being done is complementary (e.g., StormSmart Coasts); case studies on use of NOAA products
- Products to assist with local communities (guides, trainings, frameworks, user-friendly information; specific to geographic regions)
- Funding to be delivered at local level for conservation planning and implementation

5. Top Adaptation Priorities (State/Territory)

Data and Analysis

- Modeling of local or sub-regional climate conditions

- LIDAR data collection
- Species and habitat vulnerability assessments
- Statewide assessment of habitat connectivity
- SLR modeling in urban areas

Support to communities

- Vulnerability assessments - w/ community participation, on town or regional basis
- Adaptation planning - local, via LU planning process, coastal community adaptation and resilience
- Motivating coastal communities to prepare for cc and coastal hazards
- Provide TA to local governments - e.g. models, local-scale info, policy guidance, mapping
- Support CoastSmart communities to address coastal hazard risks now & in future
- Modify Local Waterfront Revitalization Program planning to include climate change consideration
- Develop a social marketing approach toward increasing public understanding of SLR threats facing the state's coasts, working with focus groups to understand their perspective before designing educational material

Statewide efforts

- Revision of state's CZM program
- Serve as info conduit on this topic among state agencies and to communities
- Development of statewide climate change policy to be codified by legislature
- Incorporate climate change into CELCP
- Reduce vulnerability of state lands, facilities and infrastructure to the potential impacts of climate change and SLR
- Develop Coastal Resilience Plan guidance
- State staff need to get trained on adaptation by NOAA
- Update state conservation priorities to best address adaptation needs of most vulnerable species
- Living shoreline works
- Pilot climate change work leading to CMP amendment in SSER (?)
- Restoration Task Force (Gulf Coast)
- Bycatch reduction and ES coordination
- Working waterfront development and preservation
- Sediment management - beach renourishment, restoration and provide public access
- Alternative financing for acquisition of shoreline public access
- Benthic mapping
- IOOS operations
- CMSP
- Water Quantity: Recharge/runoff, Green Infrastructure retrofit, Lakefront community water assessment
- Lake Management and Planning: Coastal Hazards, Sediment transport and bypass, Invasives

6. Top Ocean Management and Planning Priorities (State/territory)

CMSP

- CMSP - Renewable energy - to prepare for & develop plan for offshore wind development/ocean alternative energy
- CMSP - to prepare for emerging ocean uses
- CMSP - to protect critical ocean habitats

- Figure out what CMSP would look like and state & estuary scale needs/desires
- Need clarity on who will be doing what in CMSP (fed, state)
- Need to work with ocean stakeholders to understand their ocean management objectives to piece together a comprehensive approach that meets their needs while protecting the health of the ocean

Data and analysis

- Application of bio-statistical analysis, data translation, scientific advice and vetting, data review and organization (seabirds, coral & sponges, offshore uses)
- Need better biological and human use data
- Need place on the cloud for decision support tools and data
- SLR modeling to determine critical ocean resources
- Update benthic habitat maps
- Seafloor mapping project

Implementation

- Implementing a series of marine reserves along the coast
- Transition from power plant once-through-cooling to alternative cooling
- Identify and develop alternative and less damaging intake methods for desalinization facilities
- Address naval training activities that use sonar - when/ where to limit
- Dredge material disposal siting
- Commercial fishing
- Increase state capacity to manage state submerged lands and waters

Appendix C: Roundtable Topics

ROUNDTABLE SCHEDULE -- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

TIME	SSMC4, Room 11153	SSMC3, Room 4587	SSMC3, Room 4587	SSMC3, Room 1311-B
SESSION 1: 2:00-2:30	Mapping Human Uses of the Ocean through Participatory GIS (RT20) Mimi D'Iorio: MPA Center <i>(Repeated on Thursday)</i>	Technical Considerations for Use of Geospatial Data in Sea Level Change Mapping and Assessment (RT9) Steve Gill: CO-OPS	NOAA Coastal Relief Modeling Tools to Support Coastal Management, Community Planning, and Hazard Mitigation (RT6) Barry Eakins: NGDC	Climate Training: A Suite of Courses to Build Skills for Coastal Communities to Adapt to Climate Change (RT5) Ginger Hinchcliff: CSC <i>(Repeated on Thursday)</i>
SESSION 2: 2:45-3:15	Coastal Inundation Toolkit: Helping Users Understand Flooding Issues and how to Analyze and Communicate Risk (RT4) Miki Schmidt: CSC	High Frequency Radar and the development of the National Surface Current Network (RT12) Dave Easter: IOOS	Engagement through the National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review (RT14) Helene Scalliet: ONMS	Coastal and Ocean Climate Applications (COCA) (RT1) Adrienne Antoine: CPO <i>(Repeated on Thursday)</i>
SESSION 3: 3:30-4:00	Mapping Seafloor Habitats in Support of Spatial Planning (RT17) Tim Battista: NCCOS	Implementing the Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System (RT13) Scott Kuester: IOOS	Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IOCM): "Map Once, Use Many Times" (RT7) Rebecca Arenson: OCS and Barry Eakins: NGDC <i>(Repeated on Thursday)</i>	Promote your Success Stories: Share your Program's Innovative Solutions through these Mechanisms (RT2) Ginger Hinchcliff: CSC
SESSION 4: 4:15-4:45	Mapping Species Distributions in Support of Spatial Planning (RT16) Chris Caldwell: NCCOS <i>(Repeated on Thursday)</i>	Supporting Shellfish Growers to Meet the Challenges of Ocean Acidification (RT11) Carl Gouldman: IOOS	NOAA's State of the Coast Web Site (RT21) Brent Ache and Kristen Crossett: SPO	Geospatial Services Contracting - Existing Contracts Available for Use by States (RT3) Miki Schmidt: CSC

ROUNDTABLE SCHEDULE -- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

TIME	SSMC3, Room 1311-B	SSMC4, Room 11153	SSMC4, Room 11255	SSMC4, Room 1W611
SESSION 5: 9:00-9:30	Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise Program (EESLR)(RT18) David Kidwell: NCCOS	Shoreline Stabilization in an Era of Sea Level Rise (RT19) Carolyn Currin & Ruth Kelty: NCCOS	Coastal and Ocean Climate Applications (COCA)(RT1) Adrienne Antoine: CPO <i>(Repeat)</i>	Integrated Geospatial Information to Develop Decision-Support Products for Coastal Communities: The Collaborative Survey Model (RT10) Carolyn Lindley: CO-OPS & Rich Patchen: OCS
SESSION 6: 9:45-10:15	Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise Program (EESLR) (RT18) David Kidwell: NCCOS <i>(Repeat)</i>	Shoreline Stabilization in an Era of Sea Level Rise (RT19) Carolyn Currin & Ruth Kelty: NCCOS <i>(Repeat)</i>	VDatum: A Tool for Coastal Communities to Assess Vulnerability to Sea Level Change (RT8) Stephen White & Philippe Hensel: NGS	Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IOCM): "Map Once, Use Many Times" (RT7) Rebecca Arenson: OCS and Barry Eakins: NGDC <i>(Repeat)</i>
SESSION 7: 10:30-11:00	National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserves as Sentinel Sites (RT15) Helene Scalliet: ONMS & Marie Bundy: OCRM	Mapping Species Distributions in Support of Spatial Planning (RT16) Chris Caldwell: NCCOS <i>(Repeat)</i>	Climate Training: A Suite of Courses to Build Skills for Coastal Communities to Adapt to Climate Change (RT5) Ginger Hinchcliff: CSC <i>(Repeat)</i>	Mapping Human Uses of the Ocean through Participatory GIS (RT20) Mimi D'Iorio: MPA Center <i>(Repeat)</i>