

CZMA CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL HAZARDS E-NEWS UPDATE #12

The Coastal Programs Division of NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management distributes the CZMA Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update to keep state and territory coastal program managers and climate change/coastal hazards staff informed about climate change (as it pertains to coastal hazards) and coastal hazards activities. If you would like to receive the Climate Change and Coastal Hazards E-News Update, please e-mail christa.rabenold@noaa.gov. For previous issues, see the E-News Update archive at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/climateneewsletter.html>.

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NOAA UPDATES

New NOAA Project Seeks Input on Climate Change in Your Backyard

Climate Change in Your Backyard, a new partnered project led by the NOAA Coastal Services Center aims to illustrate where we are already seeing impacts of climate change and what communities are doing in response and offer additional suggestions for ways to address the issues. The project partners are looking for stories about local impacts or long-term changes that can be told in a new publication. Examples include evidence of sea level rise, flooding that has repeatedly exceeded the 100-year flood, salt water intrusion that has impacted fresh water supplies or marsh habitats, living marine resources that have been impacted by increasing water temperatures, and issues that have arisen due to low water levels in the Great Lakes. Project managers will work with local climate change experts to determine the climate change component to the story, so climate change expertise is not required. If you have a story to share, please contact Stephanie Fauver at stephanie.fauver@noaa.gov or (843) 740-1287.

Online Library Offers Climate Change Resources for Pacific Islands

<http://piccos.soest.hawaii.edu/piccp/joomla>

The Pacific Islands Climate Change Virtual Library, from NOAA and Pacific Island partners, was created to help Pacific Island coastal managers and their communities plan for climate change. The library includes resources on how to map and model climate impacts, assess vulnerability, and adapt to climate variability and change in the Pacific region. A forum is also available for communication and collaboration among regional decision-makers and resource providers.

NOAA Launches State of the Coast Web Site

<http://stateofthecoast.noaa.gov/>

In March, NOAA's National Ocean Service launched its State of the Coast web site. The site is a source for quick facts and more detailed statistics offered through 14 interactive indicator visualizations presented across four themes: Communities, Economy, Ecology, and Climate. Collectively, this information highlights connections among a healthy coastal ecosystem, a robust U.S. economy, a safe population, and a sustainable quality of life for coastal residents. Visitors can investigate changes in coastal population from 1970 to 2040; explore the impact coastal areas have on the U.S. economy; survey the overall health of the U.S. coast; and explore the vulnerability of our coasts to long-term sea level rise.

National Weather Service to Use New Hurricane Wind Scale

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100217_hurricane.html

NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) will use a new hurricane scale this season called the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. The scale keeps the same wind speed ranges as the original Saffir-Simpson Scale for each of the five hurricane categories, but no longer ties specific storm surge and flooding effects to each category. Storm surge values and associated flooding are dependent on a combination of factors. As a result, storm surge values can be significantly outside the ranges suggested in the original scale. Storm surge forecasts will continue to be included in hurricane advisories and statements issued by the National Hurricane Center and local NWS forecast offices. Beginning with the 2009 hurricane season, this information has been expressed in terms of height above ground level to give residents a better understanding of the potential for flooding at their location.

NOAA Designates First Tsunami Awareness Week

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100319_tsunami.html

<http://nthmp.tsunami.gov/tsunamiweek.html>

March 21-27, 2010, marked the first national Tsunami Awareness Week, which included open houses at NOAA's National Weather Service tsunami warning centers in Alaska and Hawaii and community tsunami awareness activities in a number of coastal states.

New Sea Grant Initiative Helps Coastal Communities Adapt to Climate Change

In both fiscal years 2010 and 2011, Sea Grant will make \$1 million (\$30,000 per Sea Grant program) available to conduct rapid response, community-based, climate adaptation demonstration projects in Sea Grant states. The projects' primary objectives will be to provide demonstration communities with sufficient information to consider alternatives and enable them to make better-informed decisions and ultimately develop and implement solutions to the hazards and climate change challenges that threaten their economic and social well-being. The suite of demonstration projects will be evaluated to identify best practices and enable Sea Grant to focus subsequent efforts on those activities shown to have the greatest benefit. To receive the 2010 funding, each Sea Grant program is required to submit a one-page work plan and budget for their project by May 1, 2010. For more information, contact Joshua Brown at joshua.brown@noaa.gov.

CSC Releases Risk Communication Job Aid

http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/inundation/pdf/Understanding_Risk_Behavior.pdf

The NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC) has released a two-page job aid on behavior and communication related to coastal risks such as hurricanes and flooding. Designed for those in the fields of emergency management, coastal management, communications, and social science, the document explains the concept of risk, discusses why human behavior in the face of risk is so complicated, and provides best practices on communicating risk-related messages and changing risk-related behaviors.

New Lidar Data and High Resolution Land Cover Data Added to Digital Coast

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/>

The NOAA Coastal Services Center has made some additions to its Digital Coast web site:

- A suite of high-resolution land cover data products for the U.S. Pacific Island territories, developed through the Coastal Change Analysis Program and Pacific Services Center, is available for download. The maps provide a detailed characterization of land cover ranging from impervious surfaces and cultivated lands to critical habitats such as forested and emergent wetlands.
- Lidar data for portions of Florida, Maryland, and Minnesota are available for download.

OTHER FEDERAL UPDATES

EPA Requests Letters of Interest for Smart Growth Implementation Assistance

http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/2010_0128_rfli.html

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking applications for technical assistance from communities that want to incorporate smart growth in future development to meet environmental and other community goals. This request is being coordinated under the interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities. Staff from the Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Transportation will assist in the provision of technical assistance. Eligible entities are tribal, local, regional, and state governments and nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity. Hazard mitigation

and climate change are identified as key issue areas in which communities are likely to benefit from technical assistance. Letters of interest are due on April 9, 2010.

Interagency Working Group Releases Roadmap for Restoring Ecosystem Resiliency and Sustainability in the Gulf

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/gulfcoast>

In early March, the interagency Louisiana-Mississippi Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Working Group released a “Roadmap for Restoring Ecosystem Resiliency and Sustainability in the Louisiana and Mississippi Coasts” (16 pp.) that emphasizes the protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems as a key element to the region’s long-term safety and viability. While emphasizing the importance of partnering with the states, the roadmap outlines federal actions over the next 18 months to address policy, process, and legal hurdles to coastal restoration in the region.

Progress Report for Climate Change Adaptation Task Force Open for Comment

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/adaptation>

On March 16, the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force, which includes representatives from more than 20 federal agencies, released an interim progress report (7 pp.) that outlines its progress to date. To help meet identified needs, the task force recommends key components for a national strategy on climate change adaptation: integration of science into adaptation decisions and policy, communications and capacity-building, coordination and collaboration, prioritization, a flexible framework for agencies, and evaluation. The report is available for public comment for 60 days.

DOI Establishes First Regional Climate Science Center

http://doi.gov/news/pressreleases/2010_03_04_release.cfm

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is expanding the scope and geographic reach of its climate-science efforts by establishing eight regional Climate Science Centers. These centers will provide scientific information, tools, and techniques that resource managers and other interested parties can apply to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to climate- and ecologically driven responses at regional-to-local scales. In March, DOI announced that the University of Alaska had been selected as the first of the eight centers.

NASA Takes Climate Message to Kids

<http://climate.nasa.gov/kids>

“Climate Kids,” a new web site from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is geared toward students in grades 4 through 6 to help them understand how and why their planet is changing and what they can do to help keep it habitable. The site uses age-appropriate language, games, and illustrations and animations to help explain climate change. Visitors to the site will learn basic Earth science concepts, such as the difference between weather and climate, and can command an interactive Climate Time Machine to travel through time to see how climate changes have affected our world or may affect it in the future. A link to educator resources is also provided.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Louisiana Funds Resiliency Projects in Coastal Parishes

<http://lra.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=newsroom&tmp=detail&articleID=608>

With \$10 million from the U.S. Department of Housing’s Community Development Block Grant program, the Louisiana Recovery Authority is helping communities affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike increase

resiliency. The competitive Comprehensive Resiliency Program will fund nonconstruction projects, such as the development of forward-thinking plans related to land use, economic development, resiliency, and water management; development of local zoning ordinances that will help prevent or dramatically minimize damage from future storm events; and augmentation of local code enforcement staffs.

Maryland Offers Communities Assistance to Address Coastal Hazards and Climate Change

<http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/ccp/index.asp>

Through Maryland's Coast-Smart Communities Initiative, the Chesapeake and Coastal Program is helping communities identify and implement strategies to protect life and property vulnerable to coastal hazards and climate change. In partnership with NOAA, the program is offering competitive Coastal Communities Grants to communities for up to \$75,000 for coastal hazards and sea level rise planning. Previous funding has been used to help communities invest in computer models, implement land use plans, and establish development codes and ordinances.

Hawaii Releases Framework for Climate Change Adaptation

http://www.state.hi.us/dbedt/czm/ormp/reports/climate_change_adaptation_framework_final.pdf

"A Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii" (30 pp.) is a collaborative effort of Hawaii's Ocean Resources Management Plan Working Group, with the assistance of the University of Hawaii Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy. The purpose of the framework is to encourage, and provide some guidance to, state, local, and federal agencies; policy makers; business; and community partners to plan for the impacts of climate change. The framework lays out a process by which the state may begin to develop plans and make informed decisions on climate change adaptation.

Entire Gulf Coast Now StormSmart

<http://stormsmartcoasts.org/>

With the recent addition of Florida to the StormSmart Coasts Network, the entire Gulf Coast is now represented. Supported by the NOAA Coastal Services Center and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, StormSmart Coasts is a web resource dedicated to helping decision makers in coastal communities address the challenges of storms, flooding, sea level rise, and climate change. Each state's site features recent news and five main sections: Before the Storm, During the Storm, After the Storm, Funding, and Your Community (which allows local communities to create their own sites). A monthly newsletter and social media updates are also available.

Sea Grant Law Program Examines Takings in Coastal Louisiana

<http://nsglc.olemiss.edu/SGLPJ/Vol2No2/jones.pdf>

"Hanging in the Coastal Balance: How Do Coastal Communities Choose Between Economic Growth and Protecting Their Citizens?" (11 pp.), in the Winter 2009/2010 "Sea Grant Law and Policy Journal," examines the takings issue in a coastal Louisiana parish. The research in the article originally appeared in a memorandum of law prepared for a citizens' group by the Louisiana Sea Grant Law and Policy Program. The article concludes that, in the case discussed, "preventing development due to fear of potential flooding would likely fall within the parish government's police powers and not require just compensation to the property owners under either the federal or state takings doctrine."

New IBHS Program Aims to Fortify Existing Homes

<http://www.disastersafety.org/text.asp?id=fortified>

Known for its code-plus new construction program "Fortified for Safer Living," the Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) has launched a new program to help strengthen existing homes by retrofitting to ward off

damage from specific natural hazards. The “Fortified for Existing Homes” designation provides evidence that a home is built and/or retrofitted according to standards that bring critical elements and systems up to, and sometimes beyond, those used in new hurricane-resistant construction.

Report Examines Potential Economic Implications of Climate Change

<http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/library/report/climate-change-and-economy-expected-impacts-and-their-implications>

“Climate Change and the Economy: Expected Impacts and Their Implications” (36 pp.), from the Bipartisan Policy Center, is a compilation of research that shows how states are facing growing economic harm from climate change. Specifically, it examines projected economic impacts on water, infrastructure, coast, and forest sectors and the implications on other sectors. The report suggests that climate change is expected to prove disruptive to a broad cross section of the economy in all regions of the country.

CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, EVENTS

Association of State Floodplain Managers 34th Annual National Conference: Building Blocks of Floodplain Management

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

May 16-21, 2010

<http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuid=381&firstlevelmenuid=181&siteid=1>

Challenges of Natural Resource Economics and Policy

New Orleans, Louisiana

May 26-28, 2010

<http://www.cnrep.lsu.edu/>

Share Your Thoughts

If you have news that you would like to include in future updates or suggestions about the type of information you would like to see here, please e-mail christa.rabenold@noaa.gov.

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