

CZMA CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL HAZARDS E-NEWS UPDATE #15

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/climatenewsletter.html>.

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NOAA UPDATES

OCRM Releases Climate Change Adaptation Planning Guide

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/climate/adaptation.html>

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) has developed a new guide to help state and territorial coastal managers reduce the risks of climate change impacts that may affect their coasts. "Adapting to Climate Change: A Planning Guide for State Coastal Managers" (138 pp.) was written in response to requests from state coastal managers for NOAA guidance on adaptation planning. The guide provides science-based information on climate change to set the context for adaptation planning and includes steps for setting up a planning process, assessing vulnerability, devising a strategy, and implementing the plan. It compiles information from a number of sources and includes techniques currently being used successfully by coastal managers to address other coastal management issues such as coastal hazards, habitat loss, and secondary and cumulative impacts.

NOAA Still Expects Active Atlantic Hurricane Season

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml>

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/>

<http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts/>

On August 5, NOAA's National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center issued an update to its 2010 outlook for hurricane activity in the Atlantic. There is a 70 percent chance of 14 to 20 named storms, of which 8 to 12 could become hurricanes, including 4 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4, or 5). These ranges are still indicative of an active season, compared to the average of 11 named storms, six hurricanes, and two major hurricanes; however, the upper bounds of the ranges have been lowered from the initial outlook. Similarly, the researchers at Colorado State University's Tropical Meteorology Project released their August forecast, estimating that the season will bring 18 named storms, 10 hurricanes, and 5 major hurricanes.

Emergency Managers Get Lesson on Links between Hazards and Climate Change

<http://www.emforum.org/> (see Program Archive)

In July, Margaret Davidson, the director of the NOAA Coastal Services Center, participated in the online Emergency Management Forum, presenting on "Building the Foundation for Hazard and Climate Resilient Coastal Communities." The presentation along with Q&A (audio and slides) can be viewed online, and the transcript is also available for download.

NOAA Climate Services Portal Features Videos on Climate Change

<http://www.climate.gov/#climateWatch/videos>

A number of brief videos have been added to the NOAA Climate Services Portal that may be of interest to coastal managers. They include "2010 U.S. Hurricane Outlook," "Does a Warmer World Make Hurricanes Stronger?" and "How Is Climate Change Impacting Coasts?" The latter features managers of state coastal zone programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves commenting on their plans for climate change adaptation.

NASA/NOAA Study Finds El Niños Growing Stronger

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100825_elnino.html

According to a new study by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and NOAA, a relatively new type of El Niño, which has its warmest waters in the central-equatorial Pacific Ocean, rather than in the eastern-equatorial Pacific, is becoming more common and progressively stronger. El Niño's impact on global weather patterns is different if ocean warming occurs primarily in the central Pacific, instead of the

eastern Pacific. The research may improve our understanding of the relationship between El Niños and climate change and has potential significant implications for long-term weather forecasting. Further research is needed to evaluate the impacts of these increasingly intense El Niños and determine why these changes are occurring.

OTHER FEDERAL UPDATES

FEMA Releases Report on Flood Mapping Progress in FY10

http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/mm_main.shtm

“FY10 Flood Mapping Progress Report and Production Plan: Flood Map Modernization and Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning” (104 pp.) details the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) progress in prioritizing and delivering modernized flood maps for areas of the United States with the greatest flood risk. The report provides an update on performance in the Flood Map Modernization Program; the strategy for prioritizing and initiating coastal, levee, and riverine flood engineering and map data updates for Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP); maps depicting map production progress and planned updates; and an appendix that lists all scheduled and completed flood map production activities.

New FEMA Publication Guides Tribal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4135>

“Tribal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance” (117 pp.) was developed to help Indian tribal governments identify and assess their risk to natural hazards through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) multi-hazard mitigation planning process. In recognition of tribal sovereignty and the government-to-government relationship FEMA has with Indian tribal governments, FEMA amended its regulations to consolidate and clarify the requirements for Indian tribal governments and establish tribal mitigation plans separately from state and local mitigation plans. The new publication will also help plan reviewers evaluate mitigation plans from Indian tribal governments in a fair and consistent manner.

Fact Sheet Highlights FEMA’s Responsibilities and Restrictions under CBRA

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3818>

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) protects coastal areas that serve as barriers against wind and tidal forces caused by coastal storms and provide habitat for aquatic species. A new fact sheet from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) outlines the responsibilities and restrictions that various programs within FEMA have under CBRA. Programs include the National Flood Insurance Program, Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, and the agency’s mitigation programs.

USGS Assesses Vulnerability of Northern Gulf of Mexico to Sea Level Rise and Coastal Change

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2010/1146/>

As part of its Northern Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Change and Hazard Susceptibility project, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has produced “Coastal Vulnerability Assessment of the Northern Gulf of Mexico to Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Change” (30 pp.), which reports the results of a vulnerability assessment from Galveston, Texas, to Panama City, Florida, and highlights areas that are likely to be most affected by future sea level rise. The assessment combines the coastal system’s susceptibility to change with its natural ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions. This information can be useful in long-term coastal management and policy decision making. Areas identified as likely to be most vulnerable are parts of the Louisiana Chenier Plain, Teche-Vermillion Basin, and the Mississippi barrier islands, as well as most of the Terrebonne and Barataria Bay region and the Chandeleur Islands.

Corps Program Aimed at Responding to Climate Change

<http://www.corpsclimate.us/>

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Responses to Climate Change Program addresses the need to reduce potential vulnerabilities to the nation's water resources and infrastructure from climate change and variability. Its mission is to develop, implement, and assess adjustments or changes in operations and decision environments to enhance resilience or reduce vulnerability of Corps projects, systems, and programs to observed or expected changes in climate. The program's website shares news and information about program activities as well as the potential impacts of climate change, interagency efforts, strategies for dealing with climate change, and more.

Latest America's Climate Choices Report Focuses on Information Needs

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12784

The National Academies National Research Council has issued another report as part of its America's Climate Choices program. "Informing an Effective Response to Climate Change" (300 pp.) demonstrates that demand for information to support climate-related decisions has grown as people, organizations, and governments have begun to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. This report examines information needs and calls for the federal government to build upon its existing efforts and those of state and local government, the private sector, and citizens by establishing clear federal leadership, responsibility, and coordination for climate-related decisions, climate risk management, information systems, and services. The report can be purchased or read for free online.

Videos of Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force Public Meetings Online

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

In June and July, the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force held public meetings to solicit local and regional ideas, questions, and concerns about climate change impacts and to describe federal planning efforts already underway. The videos of these meetings, which were held in Portland, Oregon; Miami, Florida; Honolulu, Hawaii; Chicago, Illinois; and Denver, Colorado, are available online. The meetings held in Miami (coastal hazards and water resources), Honolulu (island resilience), and Chicago (Great Lakes ecosystems and urban infrastructure) will be of the most interest to coastal managers.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Connecticut Releases Report on Impacts of Climate Change

<http://ctclimatechange.com/index.php/ct-happenings/gsc-adaptation-subcommittee/>

In accordance with Public Act No. 08-98, An Act Concerning Connecticut Global Warming Solutions, the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change established an Adaptation Subcommittee charged with evaluating and reporting on the projected impacts of climate change on the state and recommending changes to existing state and municipal programs, laws, or regulations to enable municipalities and natural habitats to adapt to harmful climate change impacts and to mitigate such impacts. "The Impacts of Climate Change on Connecticut Agriculture, Infrastructure, Natural Resources, and Public Health" (195 pp.) is the result of that effort.

California Releases Climate Action Team Biennial Report

<http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/publications/cat/>

As mandated by a 2005 executive order by the governor, California has released its biennial science report (127 pp.) on climate change impacts and mitigation and adaptation options for California. Specifically, the report delves into the latest research on the impacts of climate change on California's people, natural

resources, and infrastructure; provides detailed analyses of economic impacts of climate change on various sectors; assesses the research needs and opportunities for coordination on California-focused climate change; and offers an introduction to coordinated efforts to adapt to current and future impacts of climate change. Among its findings: a high emissions pathway is significantly more costly to the state than a low emissions pathway.

COMET Program Offers Climate Change Training

http://www.meted.ucar.edu/topics_climate.php

“Climate Change: Fitting the Pieces Together” is one of a number of free online climate training modules offered by the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training (COMET) program (which is sponsored by NOAA’s National Weather Service). The module covers signs of climate change, how scientists study climate, the current thinking on future changes, and what can be done to minimize the effects. Time to complete is estimated at approximately two hours.

ICLEI Makes the Climate Mitigation-Adaptation Connection

<http://www.icleiusa.org/blog/archive/2010/08/16/the-climate-mitigation-adaptation-connection>

ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability is working to educate local governments about the need to take action to adapt to climate change in addition to ongoing and planned efforts to mitigate it. To do so, they prepared “The Mitigation-Adaptation Connection: Milestones, Synergies and Contradictions” (8 pp.), a primer that describes climate change mitigation planning and adaptation planning, highlights synergies between mitigation and adaptation actions that can be taken advantage of to maximize benefits, and provides examples of mitigation and adaptation actions that may contradict one another.

MIT/USGS Training Program Helps Massachusetts Cities Adapt to Climate Change

<http://web.mit.edu/dusp/epp/music/>

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)-U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Science Impact Collaborative, a field-based graduate training program, has released “Managing Risk: Helping Cities in Massachusetts Adapt to Climate Change” (64 pp.). The report features case studies of efforts in four coastal Massachusetts cities to anticipate and respond to climate change and compares these efforts with what other Massachusetts cities are doing. The authors identified six steps that every city can take to begin to manage the risks associated with climate change: begin conversations now, use available data, build on existing approaches, incorporate climate change into everyday decision-making, use scenario planning to identify no-regrets actions, and collaborate.

UNISDR Launches 2010-11 World Disaster Reduction Campaign

<http://www.unisdr.org/english/campaigns/campaign2010-2011/>

In May, the United Nations’ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) launched a global campaign to help cities build resilience against the impacts of natural hazards. The two-year campaign, Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready, urges leaders and local governments to commit to a checklist of ten essentials that will make their cities more resilient. The aim of the campaign is to enlist over 1,000 local government leaders worldwide to invest more in disaster risk reduction, which includes improving urban planning, infrastructure, and building safety; reinforcing drainage systems to reduce flood, storm, and health threats; installing early warning systems; conducting public preparedness drills; and taking measures to adapt to the increasing impacts of climate change.

CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, EVENTS

Webinar: Demonstration of Digital Coast Coastal Inundation Toolkit

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/621728121>

September 23, 1 pm US EDT/10 am US PDT

American Shore and Beach Preservation Association—National Coastal Conference: Celebrating the Diversity of the Coast

<http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conferences.htm>

Charleston, SC

October 13–15, 2010

Disaster Roundtable Workshop #30: Designing for Disaster Resilience

<http://dels-old.nas.edu/dr/>

Washington, DC

October 26, 2010

5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration: Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy

<https://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

Galveston Island, TX

November 13-17, 2010

Association of State Floodplain Managers—Flood Risk Management: The Winning Ticket

<http://www.floods.org/>

Louisville, Kentucky

May 15-20, 2011

Abstracts are due October 3, 2010

Coastal Zone 2011—Winds of Change: Great Lakes, Great Oceans, Great Communities

<http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm>

Chicago, Illinois

July 17–21, 2011

Abstracts are due October 8, 2010

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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