

CZMA CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL HAZARDS E-NEWS UPDATE #20

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/DOC UPDATES

NOAA Issues Hurricane Season Outlooks

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/OUTLOOKS_index.shtml

http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/pages/examples/2011_Press_Release_v2.pdf

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

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center has issued its 2011 outlook for hurricane activity in the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific. For the Atlantic, forecasters are anticipating an above normal hurricane season. There is a 70 percent chance of 12 to 18 named storms, of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes, including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4, or 5). Similarly, the researchers at Colorado State University's Tropical Meteorology Project released their June forecast, estimating that the season will bring 16 named storms, 9 hurricanes, and 5 major hurricanes. For the Eastern Pacific, projected climate conditions suggest a below normal season. NOAA forecasters estimate a 70 percent chance of 9 to 15 named storms, which includes 5 to 8 hurricanes, of which 1 to 3 will become major hurricanes. NOAA's Central Pacific Hurricane Center has projected a below normal season for the Central Pacific, where 2 to 4 tropical cyclones are expected. Web widgets that allow website visitors to track active tropical systems in the Atlantic and East Pacific are available at <http://www.noaawatch.gov/widgets/>.

Census Data Aids in Emergency Management

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/emergencies/>

The U.S. Census Bureau's Census Data and Emergency Preparedness website provides links to information and tools that support the use of census data in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies. "Facts for Features: In the Hurricane's Path" highlights the number of people living in areas that could be most affected by such storms and looks at some of the numbers from years and storms past. OnTheMap for Emergency Management is a web-based tool that shows the location and extent of current and forecasted emergency events (floods, hurricanes, wildfires) on a map and allows users to retrieve detailed reports containing labor market characteristics for these areas.

OTHER FEDERAL UPDATES

National Research Council Releases Final Report in America's Climate Choices Series

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12781

The National Research Council has issued the final report in America's Climate Choices, a series of studies requested by Congress and sponsored by NOAA. "America's Climate Choices" (144 pp.) examines the nation's options for responding to the risks posed by climate change. In the context of an iterative risk management framework, it recommends five priority actions for an effective and comprehensive national response to climate change: substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions; begin mobilizing now for adaptation; invest in science, technology, and information systems; actively engage in international climate change response efforts; and coordinate national response efforts.

Report Calls for Federal Policy Changes to Protect Communities from Floods and Other Effects of Climate Change

<http://www.AmericanRivers.org/WeatheringChange>

American Rivers' "Weathering Change: Policy Reforms that Save Money and Make Communities Safer" (59 pp.), recommends changes to 10 areas of federal policy to better prepare communities for the effects of climate change and save lives and property. Recommendations include changing flood insurance rates and maps to discourage construction and reconstruction in vulnerable areas; reforming federal water infrastructure

projects to minimize damages to rivers, wetlands, and floodplains and prioritizing more cost-effective, flexible projects; restoring protections to wetlands and streams and improving implementation and enforcement of protections for all waters; and better coordinating federal actions and investing in climate change planning to help maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations.

Application Period for FY12 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs Now Open

<http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hma/index.shtm>

FEMA is now accepting applications for funding consideration under the FY12 Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs. These programs, which provide funding for eligible mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages, are the Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Severe Repetitive Loss, Flood Mitigation Assistance, and Repetitive Flood Claims programs. Applications are due to FEMA by December 2, 2011. (Check with your state's emergency management agency for details on state deadlines and procedures).

FTA Seeks Proposals for Transit Climate Change Adaptation Assessment Pilots

http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/FTA-2011-016-TBP_AdaptationPilotsRFA.pdf

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is soliciting proposals for transit climate change adaptation assessment pilots. The pilots will fund transit agencies or partnerships with transit agencies to assess the vulnerability of transit agency assets and services to climate change hazards such as heat waves and flooding. FTA contemplates making approximately four cooperative agreement awards, ranging from \$50,000 to \$175,000 each. Total funding available is \$525,000. Eligible recipients are either a public transportation provider or a university, nonprofit, private, or public entity working in partnership with a public transportation provider. Proposals are due August 25, 2011.

New EPA Primer Highlights Rolling Easements As Potential Response to Sea Level Rise

<http://www.epa.gov/cre/downloads/rollingeasementsprimer.pdf>

“Rolling Easements” (176 pp.) from the EPA’s Climate Ready Estuaries program is a technical primer that summarizes more than a dozen approaches that could be taken to allow wetlands, beaches, and barrier islands to migrate inland as sea levels rise. Among other things, it discusses what rolling easements can accomplish, legal approaches for creating them, advantages and disadvantages, where to apply them, and how to manage them.

Upgraded Hazus-MH Features Storm Surge Model for Hurricane Risk Analysis

http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus/hz_resources.shtm

FEMA has released an upgrade to its loss reduction software, Hazus-MH. The 2.0 release includes improvements to the usability and functionality of the software. These improvements include a new coastal storm surge modeling capability integrating two industry standard models (SLOSH and SWAN), which now allows Hazus-MH to predict the physical and economic impacts of hurricane scenarios on coastal flood regions. In addition to estimating the separate impacts of coastal flooding and high winds, the coastal surge scenario methodology also estimates the combined economic losses to the general building stock in a manner that avoids double counting of flood and wind losses.

NRC Issues First Report to Help Guide Future of the Corps

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13136#description

“National Water Resources Challenges Facing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers” (50 pp.) from the National Research Council (NRC) is the first in a series of five annual reports providing independent advice to the Corps on an array of strategic and planning issues. Requested by the Corps, this foundational report surveys

the key water resources challenges facing the agency, the limits of what might be expected today from the Corps, and future prospects for the agency. The audience for the report also includes Corps project cosponsors and the many entities that are affected by Corps projects and interact with the agency.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Revised Brochure Assists Purchasers of Coastal Real Estate in North Carolina

http://www.ncseagrant.org/images/stories/ncsg_pdf/documents/products/guides/purchasing_coastal_real_estate_updated.pdf

Developed by North Carolina Sea Grant, the North Carolina Real Estate Commission, and the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, “Questions and Answers on: Purchasing Coastal Real Estate in North Carolina” addresses general questions that individuals might have while considering purchasing an existing building or an undeveloped lot. With this information, buyers can better minimize the risk from coastal hazards and avoid the surprise of unanticipated regulations. Topics include erosion, recommended construction practices, and insurance. Updates include changes to setback regulations.

Workshop Proceedings Address Impacts of Armoring on the Sheltered Shorelines of Puget Sound, Washington

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5254/>

In 2009, a scientific workshop was convened to bring together local and national experts to review the state of the science on the physical and biological impacts of armoring on sheltered shorelines such as those of Puget Sound, Washington. The project was supported through a Planning Assistance to States letter agreement between the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The objectives of the workshop were to summarize the state of the science on the physical changes and ecological impacts of shoreline armoring, to assess the levels of certainty of this knowledge, and to identify information and data needs that will advance the understanding of the impacts of armoring on Puget Sound beaches. “Puget Sound Shorelines and the Impacts of Armoring—Proceedings of a State of the Science Workshop” (262 pp.) contains 22 publications organized into five categories: Puget Sound setting and context, national perspective and human dimensions, coastal geologic and oceanographic processes, beach processes and ecological response, and management needs. It also includes a review of shoreline armoring literature.

Mississippi Program to Fund Retrofitting of At-Risk Coastal Homes

<http://retrofit.dfa.state.ms.us/>

As a result of Hurricane Katrina, the State of Mississippi qualified for funding from FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The state is using some of these funds to support wind retrofit measures for at-risk structures in Mississippi. The Coastal Retrofit Mississippi Initiative, which is being managed by the state’s Department of Finance and Administration, will initially be available to qualified homeowners in the zone with the highest wind risk across the lower three Mississippi counties. Qualified homeowners will be selected based on cost effectiveness, property location, building codes, homestead exemptions, dwelling type, and ability to provide the 25 percent match required by the HMGP.

Brochures Aim to Educate Ohio Lakeshore Landowners about Erosion

<http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/Residents/CoastalLandowners/tabid/1266/Default.aspx>

With support from Ohio’s Office of Coastal Management, Lake County’s Soil and Water Conservation District developed a comprehensive series of information fact sheets on topics relevant to Lake County lakeshore landowners. Topics include bluff erosion processes and general conditions and beach and bluff stabilization. Brochures were mailed to every lakeshore parcel in the county and distributed to public officials.

New California Resource Supports Local Climate Change Adaptation Planning

<http://cal-adapt.org/>

Planners in California have a new resource to help them plan for the impacts of climate change. Developed by the University of California–Berkeley’s Geospatial Innovation Facility, with funding and oversight from the California Energy Commission’s Public Interest Energy Research Program, Cal-Adapt is a web-based climate adaptation planning tool that allows users to visualize potential climate change risks in specific areas of the state, access data and other information, and participate in community sharing. The information for Cal-Adapt was gathered from California’s scientific community and represents the most current data available.

Report Recommends Adaptation Activities in San Francisco Bay Area

<http://www.spur.org/publications/library/report/climate-change-hits-home>

“Climate Change Hits Home: Adaptation Strategies for the San Francisco Bay Area” (40 pp.) from the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association surveys the likely impacts of climate change in the San Francisco Bay Area, discusses specific regional vulnerability concerns, and makes recommendations for local governments to consider in six areas: public safety and health, transportation, energy, ecosystems and biodiversity, water management, and sea level rise.

Storm Surge Report Examines Residential Exposure in 10 Coastal Areas

http://www.corelogic.com/uploadedFiles/Pages/About_Us/ResearchTrends/CL_StormSurgeReport_2011.pdf

The “2011 CoreLogic Storm Surge Report: Residential Storm-Surge Exposure Estimates for 10 U.S. Cities” (32 pp.) examines the exposure of single-family homes to hurricane-driven storm surge damage in 10 major urban areas along the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts. The findings emphasize the fact that extensive areas along the coast are vulnerable to storm surge, and the majority of the homes at risk in the study areas, are NOT located in FEMA flood zones. (CoreLogic is a provider of consumer, financial and property information, analytics and services to business and government.)

New Coastal Climate Change Training Available Online

<http://www.meted.ucar.edu/climate/coastalclimate/index.htm>

“Coastal Climate Change” is one of a number of free online climate training modules offered through the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research’s Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training (COMET). The three-hour training was developed by the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant College Program and COMET and funded by the NOAA Climate Program Office’s Sectoral Applications Research Program. The intended audience includes NOAA Sea Grant outreach personnel, their stakeholders, and others involved in coastal planning and communication.

ASWM Examines the Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains: Seeks Comments

[http://aswm.org/pdf lib/nbf.pdf](http://aswm.org/pdf_lib/nbf.pdf)

The Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) has released a draft report “Assessing the Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains: Issues and Approaches; Future Directions” (134 pp.) and is seeking comments. The draft report was prepared to help federal, state, and local floodplain management staff, water planners, wetland managers, and others to assess, protect, and restore floodplain natural and beneficial functions. Send comments to jon.kusler@aswm.org by July 1, 2011.

CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, EVENTS

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

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

Chicago, Illinois

July 17-21, 2011

Webinar: Engaging Stakeholders in Coastal Management through Participatory Mapping

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

July 27, 2011

In Case You Missed It: Recorded Webinar

The State of Flood Risk Reduction in the United States: Are We Reducing Risk or Incentivizing It?

<http://thehorinkogroup.org/?q=content/state-flood-risk-reduction-united-states>

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.

June 23, 2011