

CZMA CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL HAZARDS E-NEWS UPDATE #28

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/climateneutral.html>.

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NOAA/DOC UPDATES

OCRM Releases Climate Change Guide for Land Conservation

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/resources/docs/guidecelpapp.pdf>

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) has released the "Voluntary Step-by-Step Guide for Considering Potential Climate Change Effects on Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Projects" (32 pp.) as part of NOAA's multi-phased effort to more systematically consider climate change impacts in the implementation of programmatic activities including restoration, land acquisition, and facilities development. The guide is written to help individuals engaged in coastal land conservation incorporate climate change considerations into their projects and planning processes. Though it focuses on implementation of OCRM's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, the methodology described has broad application for conservation planning and land acquisition in a changing climate.

NOAA Raises Atlantic Hurricane Season Prediction

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

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

On August 9, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center issued an update to its 2012 outlook for hurricane activity in the Atlantic by raising the number of expected named storms from its May pre-season outlook. Across the entire Atlantic Basin for the season, there is a 70 percent chance of 12 to 17 named storms, of which 5 to 8 could become hurricanes, including 2 to 3 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4, or 5). Similarly, the researchers at Colorado State University's Tropical Meteorology Project are now estimating 14 named storms, 6 hurricanes, and 2 major hurricanes.

NWS Updates Tropical Cyclone Preparedness Guide

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/>

NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) has updated its tropical cyclone preparedness guide (12 pp.). Sections of the guide, which is now also available in Spanish, include What Is a Tropical Cyclone, Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, Hurricane Hazards, Tropical Cyclone Graphical Products, Ways to Stay Informed, What to Listen for (watches and warnings), Are You Prepared (what to do before, during, and after a cyclone), and Family Emergency Plan.

NCDC Releases State of the Climate Report

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/bams-state-of-the-climate/2011.php>

In July, NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) released "State of the Climate in 2011" (218 pp.). The peer-reviewed annual report, issued in coordination with the American Meteorological Society, provides a detailed update on global climate indicators, notable weather events, and other data collected by environmental monitoring stations and instruments. Long-term trends show that climate indicators expected to increase in a warming world continue to increase and those that are expected to decrease continue to decrease. Specifically, warm temperature trends continue, greenhouse gases are climbing, arctic sea ice extent is decreasing, sea surface temperature and ocean heat content are rising, and ocean salinity trends continue. A related paper "Explaining Extreme Events of 2011 from a Climate Perspective" (27 pp.) explores the attribution of extreme events to climate change.

CPO Announces FY13 Funding Competitions

http://www.cpo.noaa.gov/opportunities/2013/FY13_CPO_FFO_9Aug.pdf

The NOAA Climate Program Office (CPO) has announced its FY13 funding competitions. Competitions include Coastal and Ocean Climate Applications (COCA) and the Sectoral Applications Research Program

(SARP). COCA will focus on advancing the knowledge and capacity of coastal decision makers and managers to assess risk and prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate variability and change. SARP will focus on climate extreme event preparedness, planning, and adaptation and projects supporting the Coping with Drought Initiative with the National Integrated Drought Information System. Letters of intent are due August 29, 2012. Full applications are due November 6, 2012.

Census Bureau Updates Emergency Management Web Application

<http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/em.html>

New features in the Census Bureau's OnTheMap for Emergency Management application improve access to workforce and demographic statistics for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. The application automatically incorporates real-time data updates from NOAA, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and FEMA. New features include new emergency event data, more complete hurricane archives, expanded report content (2010 Census demographic and housing characteristics and 2010 jobs and worker statistics), new analyses and visualizations, new interoperability, and improved user interface speed, navigability, and event searching.

OTHER FEDERAL UPDATES

New Legislation Extends/Reforms NFIP

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr4348enr/pdf/BILLS-112hr4348enr.pdf>

<http://www.georgetownclimate.org/how-the-new-flood-insurance-reauthorization-and-reform-law-could-impact-adaptation-planning>

Passed as part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Public Law 112-141), the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 extends the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through September 2017. It also includes several reforms designed to strengthen the program, which include elimination of some subsidies, improved and coordinated mapping, more outreach. In addition, it streamlines flood mitigation programs. While the new provisions are still being interpreted by FEMA, the Georgetown Climate Center has conducted an initial analysis. Also included in the legislation is the Consumer Option for an Alternative System to Allocate Losses (COASTAL) Act of 2012, which aims to help resolve the issue of damage attribution (i.e., wind vs. water).

New FEMA Webpage Highlights Recovery Lessons Learned and Information Sharing

<http://www.fema.gov/recovery-lessons-learned-information-sharing>

FEMA has added a new page to its website that will serve as a national online network for the exchange of ideas regarding disaster recovery. The page is intended to become a "one stop shop" for those involved in planning, capacity building, and disaster recovery operations. Sections include General Recovery Issues, Recovery Core Capabilities, Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear, Exercises, and Related Links. Feedback and contributions are encouraged.

FEMA Independent Study Courses Open to All

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/docs/IS%20Brochure.pdf>

The Independent Study Program at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute is a free distance learning program that serves as an alternate means to deliver training to the emergency management community and provides opportunities to improve public awareness and promote disaster preparedness. A new course brochure (21 pp.) describes each of the program's courses, which cover all phases of emergency management and include Introduction to Hazard Mitigation and Mitigation Planning for Local and Tribal Communities.

Updated Vertical Evacuation Guidelines Reflect Lessons Learned

<https://www.atcouncil.org/files/FEMA%20P-646small.pdf>

The Applied Technology Council has updated FEMA's "Guidelines for Design of Structures for Vertical Evacuation from Tsunamis" (194 pp.). Technical updates in this edition include observations and lessons learned from the 2011 tsunami in Japan; revision of the debris impact expression to remove over-conservatism in the prior edition; additional explanation of the definition of tsunami elevation as it relates to run-up elevation used in tsunami force equations; and an update of reference documents.

FEMA Revamps Website

<http://www.fema.gov/>

Based on input from focus groups, FEMA redesigned its website to make it more user-friendly, more up-to-date, and easier to navigate than its predecessor. According to the agency, major improvements include reducing the number of clicks for users, preventing users from getting lost, improving search capabilities, and focusing on accessibility and usability. However, links have changed, so old links that have been bookmarked or included on websites may no longer work and may require updating.

Congressional Research Service Report Examines Climate Change and the Law

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42613.pdf>

"Climate Change and Existing Law: A Survey of Legal Issues Past, Present, and Future" (34 pp.) from the Congressional Research Service surveys existing law for legal issues that have arisen, or may arise, on account of climate change and government responses to these issues. In regard to sea level rise and extreme precipitation, the report examines the effect of sea level rise on a beachfront owner's property line, rolling public beach access easements, shifting floodplain designations, levee-related issues, and failure to take preventive measures. It also looks at other adaptation issues, shore protection and retreat, specifically, and responding to and rebuilding after disasters.

Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force Issues Guidance on Unwise Use of Floodplains

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=6190>

The Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force has prepared brief guidance on unwise use of floodplains for federal agencies to use when evaluating potential activities impacting a floodplain. Reflecting the perspectives of various federal agencies, the guidance defines "unwise use" as "actions that unnecessarily increase or transfer flood risks that can result in adverse impacts to human health, safety, welfare, property, natural resources, or functions of floodplains."

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Hawaii Adopts Statewide Climate Change Adaptation Policy

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2012/bills/GM1403.PDF>

On July 9, the governor of Hawaii signed a bill incorporating climate change adaptation priority guidelines into the statewide planning system. The Hawaii Coastal Management Program led the development of the guidelines with input from other state, local, and federal agencies and representatives from the private sector, academia, and nongovernmental organizations as part of the implementation of the state's Ocean Resources Management Plan. Guidelines address education, planning, monitoring, research, preservation and restoration of natural features, sector resilience, cross-jurisdictional and cross-organizational collaboration, and more.

Best Practices Manual Supports Planning and Development in Coastal Louisiana

<http://coastal.cpex.org/>

The Center for Planning Excellence and Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) developed "Best Practices Manual for Development in Coastal Louisiana" (120 pp.) to meet the objectives of the CPRA's master plan for the coast. The manual features strategies and best practices, broadly categorized as planning and education, infrastructure design, storm water management, and site design, that can be implemented in coastal Louisiana. A matrix captures the suitability of each strategy and practice by geographic type and scale (community vs. site and building). The manual also discusses how communities can develop plans that meet their specific needs and are also coordinated with state and federal plans and how to make plans reality by creating and adopting regulatory ordinances. A "Louisiana Coastal Land Use Toolkit" supports the manual.

Mississippi Law Requires Insurance Discounts for Wind Mitigation

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2012/html/HB/1400-1499/HB1410SG.htm>

Under a new Mississippi law, insurance companies are required to provide a premium discount or insurance rate reduction to property owners along the coast who build, rebuild, or retrofit an insurable property to better resist hurricane or other catastrophic windstorm events. To qualify, construction must be in accordance with the International Residential Code (2006 or newer), as amended, including the coastal construction supplement as recommended by the Mississippi Windstorm Mitigation Coordination Council; the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety's (IBHS) Fortified for Safer Living program (or a similar IBHS program); or any other mitigation program recommended by the Mississippi Windstorm Mitigation Coordination Council and approved by the state. Retrofits must meet the specifications of IBHS's Fortified for Safer Homes program or any other mitigation program recommended by the Mississippi Windstorm Coordination Council and approved by the state.

Study Examines Effectiveness of Florida's Coastal Hazards Disclosure Law

http://www.flseagrant.org/images/PDFs/tp194_coastal_hazards_disclosure_law.pdf

"Florida's Coastal Hazards Disclosure Law: Property Owner Perceptions of the Physical and Regulatory Environment with Conclusions and Recommendations" (71 pp.) from Florida Sea Grant reports the outcomes of a project designed to determine how well Florida's coastal hazards disclosure law is performing and the extent to which coastal property purchasers considered the information provided by the disclosure statement in their purchase decision. The report describes the methodology and includes findings, which suggest the law is not accomplishing its statutory purpose, and recommendations for revising the law to better inform and protect purchasers of coastal property.

Climate Change Reports Highlight Impacts and Challenges for California

http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/third_assessment/

California's third major assessment on climate change explores local and statewide vulnerabilities to climate change, highlighting opportunities for taking concrete actions to reduce climate change impacts. This assessment examines adaptation options in regional case studies and offers insights into regulatory, legal, socioeconomic, and other barriers to adaptation so that they can be effectively addressed. It consists of more than 30 peer-reviewed papers, which were guided by state agencies and independent scientific experts, that offer new insights for the state's energy, water, agriculture, public health, coastal, transportation, and ecological resource sectors. A summary document (16 pp.) provides an overview of the findings. The studies will provide a foundation for the state's 2012 Climate Adaptation Strategy scheduled for completion in December 2012.

Study Aims to Increase Coastal Community Resilience in American Samoa

<http://astsunami-resilience.org/>

Following the 2009 tsunami, at the request of the government of American Samoa, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted the American Samoa Tsunami Study to help guide the territory's efforts to prepare for, protect against, respond to, and recover from tsunami hazards. The study included a broad field of research topics to provide comprehensive coverage for assessing current tsunami resiliency and a significant public outreach component to capture the concerns of local officials and the knowledge and experience of subject matter experts. The final report (88 pp.), working papers, and additional resources are available online.

National Academies Report on Disaster Resilience Study

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13457

The National Academies have released the results of a study on ways to increase disaster resilience in the United States. "Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative" (260 pp.) describes the state of knowledge about resilience to hazards and disasters and frames the main issues related to increasing resilience in the United States. It recognizes the need for a national framework for a "culture of disaster resilience" that includes: public awareness of and responsibility for managing local risk, establishing the economic and human value of resilience to help encourage long-term commitments to enhancing resilience, monitoring progress toward resilience, creating local capacity, identifying sound government policies and practices to build resilience, and identifying and communicating the necessary roles and responsibilities between communities and all levels of government in building resilience. A summary document (15 pp.) is also available.

NRC Releases New Resources to Educate Public about Climate Change

<http://nas-sites.org/americasclimatechoices/more-resources-on-climate-change/climate-change-lines-of-evidence-booklet/>

<http://nas-sites.org/americasclimatechoices/summaries-and-videos-from-the-acc-series/climate-change-lines-of-evidence-videos/>

The National Research Council (NRC) has developed a booklet and video to help the public better understand what is known about climate change. "Climate Change: Evidence, Impacts, and Choices" (36 pp.) lays out the evidence that human activities are responsible for much of the warming and related changes being observed around the world, summarizes projections of future climate changes and impacts expected in this century and beyond, and examines how science can help inform choices about managing and reducing the risks posed by climate change. The video, "Climate Change: Lines of Evidence," explains the lines of evidence that have built the current scientific consensus about climate change and its causes.

Paper Looks at Economic Costs of Natural Disasters

<http://www.rff.org/Publications/Pages/PublicationDetails.aspx?PublicationID=21945>

"Informing Climate Adaptation: A Review of the Economic Costs of Natural Disasters, Their Determinants, and Risk Reduction Options" (65 pp.) from Resources for the Future reviews the empirical literature on the economic impacts of natural disasters to inform both climate adaptation policy and the estimation of potential climate damage. It covers papers that estimate short- and long-run economic impacts of weather-related extreme events and studies regarding the determinants of the magnitude of such damage (including fatalities). It also discusses risk reduction options and the use of such measures as an adaptation strategy for predicted changes in extreme events with climate change.

Journal Examines Legal Solutions of Coastal Climate Change Adaptation

<http://nsglc.olemiss.edu/SGLPJ/SGLPJ.htm>

The Summer 2012 issue of the National Sea Grant Law Center's *Sea Grant Law and Policy Journal* features seven articles from the Legal Solutions to Coastal Climate Change Adaptation in Connecticut conference. The conference aimed to enhance understanding and promote discussions of cutting-edge policy and legal approaches to climate change adaptation in coastal areas with potential application to Connecticut.

CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, EVENTS

Digital Coast Webinar: CanVis

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

September 19, 2012

American Shore & Beach Preservation Association 2012 National Coastal Conference

http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conf_fall_12.htm

October 9-12, 2012

San Diego, California

Coastal GeoTools

<http://geotools.csc.noaa.gov/>

March 25-28, 2013

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Abstracts due by October 1, 2012

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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