

CZMA CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL HAZARDS E-NEWS UPDATE #7

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>.

In this Issue:**NOAA UPDATES**

- El Niño Arrives: Expected to Persist through Winter 2009-10
- NOAA Revises Hurricane Outlook
- Planning for Climate Change Workshop Materials Available Online
- Television Programs Promote Resilience to Storms
- Elevation Data Inventory for Southeast U.S. and Lake Ontario Released
- Hazard Education and Awareness Tool Provides Tsunami Risk Information in Hawaii and Oregon
- NOAA's Extreme Weather Information Sheets Updated for 2009
- West Coast Needs Assessment Includes Climate Change and Coastal Hazards

OTHER FEDERAL UPDATES

- FEMA Releases Risk MAP FY09 Flood Mapping Production Plan
- White Paper Identifies Recommendations for Effective National Mitigation Effort
- USGS Finds Submarine Landslides Are Potential Triggers of Tsunamis along East Coast

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- Draft California Climate Adaptation Strategy Available for Public Comment
- North Carolina Survey to Gauge Public Perceptions of Sea Level Rise
- Rising Tides: Design Competition Winners Announced
- New Report Showcases Efforts of Local Governments in Urban Regions to Adapt to Climate Change
- Annotated Bibliography Provides Quick Reference to Hazards Loss Data

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

- Northeast Beaches Conference

NOAA UPDATES**El Niño Arrives: Expected to Persist through Winter 2009-10**

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090709_elnino.html

In early July, NOAA scientists announced the arrival of El Niño, a climate phenomenon with a significant influence on global weather, ocean conditions, and marine fisheries. El Niño, the periodic warming of central and eastern tropical Pacific waters, occurs on average every two to five years and typically lasts about 12 months. The most recent El Niño occurred in 2006. El Niño's impacts depend on a variety of factors, such as intensity and extent of ocean warming and the time of year. As in the past, El Niño may result in damaging

winter storms in California and increased storminess across the southeastern United States, but it may also help suppress Atlantic hurricane activity and bring beneficial winter precipitation to the arid Southwest, less wintry weather across the North, and a reduced risk of Florida wildfires.

NOAA Revises Hurricane Outlook

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090806_hurricaneupdate.html

According to its August Atlantic hurricane season outlook, NOAA's National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center now expects a near- to below-normal Atlantic hurricane season, as the calming effects of El Niño continue to develop. But scientists say the season's quiet start does not guarantee quiet times ahead. The season, which began June 1, is entering its historical peak period of August through October, when most storms form. The main change from the May outlook is an increased probability of a below-normal season, and an expectation of fewer named storms and hurricanes. Forecasters now say there is a 70 percent chance of 7 to 11 named storms, of which 3 to 6 could become hurricanes, including one to two major hurricanes (category 3, 4, or 5).

Planning for Climate Change Workshop Materials Available Online

<http://neres.noaa.gov/Training/padillabay/project.html>

Developed as a national project for NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System, the "Planning for Climate Change" workshop is geared primarily toward shoreline planners and was developed so that Coastal Training Programs (and other programs/agencies) can customize the workshop and use it as part of their climate change educational efforts. It was piloted twice in Washington State and, while it lays a foundation in current climate research, it primarily addresses the fundamentals of how to prepare and adapt to the anticipated impacts of climate change. Workshop materials, evaluation results, lessons learned, PowerPoint presentations, and streaming video of the training sessions are available online. Project partners include the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington Sea Grant, the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group, and the King County Executive Office. The project was funded by a grant from the NOAA Coastal Services Center and administered through the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association.

Television Programs Promote Resilience to Storms

http://www.wkrg.com/grass_roots/

"Gambling against Mother Nature" is a three-part television series produced in partnership by NOAA's Coastal Storms Program, the Mississippi/Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, WKRG-TV, the City of Orange Beach, Alabama, and grassroots, inc. to encourage wiser development along the Gulf Coast. 'Wind and Water: Beaches, Barrier Islands, and Storm Surge,' the first of the three 30-minute programs, aired on WKRG-TV in late July and is available online. The remaining programs, 'Water Runs Down Hill: The ABCs of a Watershed' and 'Hedging Our Bets: Flooding, Storms, and Insurance,' are scheduled to air on August 19 and 26, respectively, and will also be posted online. DVDs will be available at a later date. For more information, contact Emily Sommer at sommeremily@bellsouth.net.

Elevation Data Inventory for Southeast United States and Lake Ontario Released

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/topobathy/viewer/>

The NOAA Coastal Services Center recently released an online inventory of best-available elevation data sets for the Southeast Atlantic and Lake Ontario regions. The Topographic and Bathymetric Data Inventory allows users to identify existing data sets as well as gaps in data coverage. The inventory includes publicly available

data from states, counties, cities, regional governance, NOAA, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Hazard Education and Awareness Tool Provides Tsunami Risk Information in Hawaii and Oregon

<http://www.mauicounty.gov/index.aspx?NID=1422>

http://www.nanoos.org/data/products/oregon_tsunami_evacuation_zones

Created by the NOAA Pacific Services Center in partnership with the State of Hawai'i, the Hazard Education and Awareness Tool (HEAT) is a Google Maps-based template for creating hazard awareness Web sites. Based on the success of HEAT in Hawaii—used by more than 50,000 residents and visitors—State of Oregon officials are now using the tool to address tsunami risk. The HEAT template includes the Google “address search” function, which enables users to access hazard risk maps, and a wealth of additional hazard risk information.

NOAA's Extreme Weather Information Sheets Updated for 2009

<http://ecowatch.ncddc.noaa.gov/c-side>

NOAA's National Coastal Data Development Center has updated its extreme weather information sheets for 2009. These one-page, two-sided documents contain critical phone numbers and Web site information that residents can use during potentially life-threatening weather emergencies. Sheets are available for the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida (now including the east coast) as well as the U.S. Virgin Islands. Each year, the center verifies all contacts, phone numbers, and Web sites listed on the sheets and continues to monitor the information throughout the hurricane season. Any updates are added to the online versions.

West Coast Needs Assessment Includes Climate Change and Coastal Hazards

<http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/research/RegionalPlanning>

Jointly, Sea Grant programs in Washington, Oregon, and California have released a report in support of the action plan of the 2006 West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health. The intent of “West Coast Regional Marine Research and Information Needs” (60 pp.) is to help plan, prioritize, and spark regional-scale research initiatives and investments to support wise policy and resource-management decisions. Climate change and coastal hazards are represented in the report as key regional research areas, and climate change is also identified as one of three cross-cutting themes. The report stems from nearly three years of public comment, interstate collaboration, and analysis involving stakeholders representing private and public interests in all three states.

OTHER FEDERAL UPDATES

FEMA Releases Risk MAP FY09 Flood Mapping Production Plan

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

As part of its activities related to the National Flood Insurance Program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has begun the transition from Flood Map Modernization to Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) in FY09. The vision for Risk MAP is to work collaboratively with state, local, and tribal entities to deliver quality information that increases public awareness and leads to actions that reduce risk to life and property. With FY09 congressional appropriations for flood hazard mapping, FEMA is initiating flood map update projects to address gaps in required engineering and mapping for high flood risk areas impacted by coastal flooding, levees, and other flood hazards. The “Risk MAP FY09 Flood Mapping Production Plan” (46 pp.) provides the strategy for selection of FY09 Risk MAP flood map update projects

and the planned schedule for their completion and identifies those counties for which flood map update projects are being initiated in FY09.

White Paper Identifies Recommendations for Effective National Mitigation Effort

<http://www.nemaweb.org/?3190>

In July, the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and with assistance from numerous other organizations, released “Recommendations for an Effective National Mitigation Effort” (8 pp.), which outlines the importance of mitigation in building disaster resiliency across the nation. The purpose of the paper is to set the context for future policy and program recommendations. As such, it offers strategic themes and elements for a national mitigation strategy, identifies initial steps for the near term, and emphasizes the role of mitigation in reducing the costs of disasters.

USGS Finds Submarine Landslides Are Potential Triggers of Tsunamis along East Coast

<http://soundwaves.usgs.gov/2009/08/fieldwork.html>

A recent assessment of the tsunami hazard along the east coast of the United States, carried out by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and funded by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has identified submarine landslides along the submerged continental margin as the primary potential source of dangerous tsunamis to the east coast. The seriousness of this hazard was demonstrated by the 1929 Grand Banks submarine landslide, which produced a tsunami three-eight meters high that killed 28 people along the sparsely populated Newfoundland coast.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Draft California Climate Adaptation Strategy Available for Public Comment

<http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/>

California's Natural Resources Agency has released a comprehensive plan to guide the state's adaptation to climate change. The “2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy Discussion Draft” (161 pp.) summarizes the latest science on how climate change could impact the state and provides near- and long-term recommendations on how to address those threats in seven sector areas: public health, biodiversity and habitat, ocean and coastal resources, water management, agriculture, forestry, and transportation and energy infrastructure. The strategy is in response to an executive order that asked the Natural Resources Agency to identify how state agencies can respond to rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, sea level rise, and extreme natural events.

North Carolina Survey to Gauge Public Perceptions of Sea Level Rise

<http://dcm2.ehnr.state.nc.us/>

The North Carolina Division of Coastal Management is inviting residents of the state to take a survey designed to gain insight into public perceptions of sea level rise impacts in North Carolina. The survey is the first part of a larger effort by the state's Division of Coastal Management, Coastal Resources Commission, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources to address potential responses to sea level rise on a state level. The survey will help identify perceptions of risk from sea level rise, what stakeholders believe should be done to address the potential impacts, and who they think should be responsible for addressing those impacts. The answers will also help the state agency prepare a written Coastal Resources Commission policy on sea level rise and offer assistance to coastal governments, partner agencies, and other stakeholders. Results will be presented at a future Coastal Resources Commission meeting and posted online at the division's Web site. The

division is also working with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to co-host a sea level rise science forum in January 2010, followed by a policy summit later next year. For more information, contact Tancred Miller at tancred.miller@ncdenr.gov.

Rising Tides: Design Competition Winners Announced

<http://www.risingtidescompetition.com/>

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission has recognized six winners, from among 131 entries representing 18 countries, in its international Rising Tides design competition. Entries were required to solve a meaningful sea level rise problem, while being environmentally smart, simply designed, and transferable to other estuaries beyond San Francisco Bay. Winners will share the \$25,000 prize. Details about the winning designs, as well as seven honorable mentions, are available on the competition's Web site.

New Report Showcases Efforts of Local Governments in Urban Regions to Adapt to Climate Change

http://www.ccap.org/docs/resources/674/Urban_Climate_Adaptation-FINAL_CCAP%206-9-09.pdf

In June, the Center for Clean Air Policy released "Ask the Climate Question: Adapting to Climate Change Impacts in Urban Regions" (44 pp.). The report focuses on 10 major urban areas that have already started to prioritize policies and investments in adapting to current and future climate change, providing lessons learned for other local governments to consider as they embark on efforts to address potential climate change impacts in their communities. Lessons learned address leadership, organizational structure, downscaling, collaborating with universities, stakeholder engagement, use of existing mechanisms, synergies with mitigation, financial support, and others.

Annotated Bibliography Provides Quick Reference to Hazards Loss Data

http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/publications/hazloss/haz_loss.html

Recognizing that the understanding of hazard losses is crucial for improving recovery decisions, monitoring mitigation efforts, assessing vulnerability, and determining disaster assistance, the Natural Hazards Center and the Center for Science and Technology Policy Research at the University of Colorado at Boulder have compiled a Hazards Loss Dataset Catalog and released a companion publication: "An Annotated Bibliography of Natural Hazards Loss Datasets" (18 pp.).

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Northeast Beaches Conference

Woods Hole, Massachusetts

September 21-23, 2009

<http://www.ieca-nechapter.org/coastal2009.html>

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.