

CZMA CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL HAZARDS E-NEWS UPDATE #8

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

Guide Offers Smart Growth Help for Coastal and Waterfront Planners and Developers

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

NOAA, along with the Environmental Protection Agency, the International City/County Management Association, and Rhode Island Sea Grant, has released a guide to bring smart growth to coastal and waterfront communities. "Smart Growth for Coastal and Waterfront Communities" (60 pp.) offers communities 10 coastal and waterfront-specific guidelines to help them balance development with the environment and the economy while maintaining the quality of life that makes these communities attractive. Among its recommendations, the report suggests that communities plan for natural hazards, use natural buffers to protect people and property from potential hazards, and preserve and restore critical environmental areas.

Report Explains Sea Level Anomaly this Summer along U.S. Atlantic Coast

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/EastCoastSeaLevelAnomaly_2009.pdf

Persistent winds and a weakened current in the Mid-Atlantic contributed to higher than normal sea levels along the Eastern Seaboard in June and July, according to a new NOAA technical report, "Elevated East Coast Sea Level Anomaly: June-July 2009" (40 pp.), from NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services. Water levels six inches to two feet higher than originally predicted were observed. Impacts were amplified by a perigean-spring tide. The combined effects of this tide with the sea level anomaly produced minor flooding on the coast.

Better Observations, Analyses Detecting Short-Lived Tropical Systems

http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090811_tropical.html

A NOAA-led team of scientists has found that the apparent increase in the number of tropical storms and hurricanes since the late 19th and early 20th centuries is likely attributable to improvements in observational tools and analysis techniques that better detect short-lived storms. The new study, reported in the online edition of the American Meteorological Society's peer-reviewed Journal of Climate, "provides strong evidence that there has been no systematic change in the number of North Atlantic tropical cyclones during the 20th century." It also notes that the finding of no increasing trend in hurricane and tropical storm counts in the Atlantic is consistent with several recent global warming simulations from high-resolution global climate model and regional downscaling models.

Publications Provide History of North Atlantic and Eastern North Pacific Tropical Cyclones

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/abouttrackbooks.shtml>

As part of its Historical Climatology Series, NOAA has prepared and made available the first edition publication of "Tropical Cyclones of the Eastern North Pacific Ocean, 1949-2006" (166 pp.). Also available is the newly updated and revised book "Tropical Cyclones of the North Atlantic Ocean, 1851-2006" (244 pp.). The new publications, prepared by NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in cooperation with the National Hurricane Center, are comprehensive sources of track and statistical data of individual tropical cyclones and climatology in the Eastern North Pacific and North Atlantic basins. They are available for purchase online.

OTHER FEDERAL UPDATES

FEMA Aims to Reduce Federal Cost Share for Repetitively Damaged Facilities

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-19156.pdf>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing a regulation to allow for a reduction of the federal cost share for restoration of repetitively damaged facilities that have not undergone appropriate mitigation measures. The rule would apply only to public and eligible private nonprofit facilities that have been damaged three times by the same type of event within a ten-year period. The rule proposes to reduce the federal cost share of Public Assistance to 25 percent if the risk to a facility has not been mitigated prior to that third event. Traditionally, the federal cost share for eligible repairs to disaster-damaged facilities is no less than 75 percent federal funding. FEMA is seeking comments, which are due on or before October 13, 2009.

FEMA Reports on Long-Term Recovery Efforts in Annual Report

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/rebuild/ltrc/2008_report.pdf

“The Road to Recovery 2008: Emergency Support Function #14 Long-Term Community Recovery” (24 pp.) is a new report from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that shares stories of communities affected by 2008 disasters that launched strategic recovery efforts with support from FEMA-led Emergency Support Function #14 Long-Term Community Recovery. The report provides an overview of the types of support ESF #14 provided to disaster-impacted communities in 2008 (e.g., long-term recovery planning, recovery assessments, technical assistance, workshop facilitation, etc.) and is intended to increase awareness and understanding of ESF #14 and its concepts, benefits, and outcomes.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Revised Oceanfront Setback Rules Take Effect in North Carolina

<http://dcm2.ehnr.state.nc.us/News/2009%20releases/setbacks.html>

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

In August, new setback rules took effect in North Carolina. The new rules, which are administered by North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, are based solely on size and do away with an exemption in the previous rules that treated single-family homes larger than 5,000 square feet differently than other similarly sized structures. The new minimum setback remains 30 times the long-term average annual erosion rate, as measured from the vegetation line, for all structures less than 5,000 square feet. The setback for ALL structures between 5,000 and 9,999 square feet is 60 times the erosion rate. For structures 10,000 square feet and larger, the setback increases incrementally with structure size, reaching a maximum setback of 90 times the erosion rate for structures 100,000 square feet and larger.

Texas Undertakes Historic Coastal Protection Effort

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/news/docs/2009-Releases/09-09-09-Announce-Assault-On-Erosion.pdf>

In response to the damage incurred by Hurricane Ike, and to protect coastal Texas from future storms, the Texas General Land Office is undertaking the biggest coastal protection effort in the state’s history. Using federal and state funds, the \$135.4 million effort consists of 26 individual projects. The largest is a massive beach renourishment project that will stretch six miles west of the end of the Galveston Seawall. Other projects include other beach nourishment projects, dune rebuilding and restoration, estuarine habitat restoration, and revetment repair and construction. Funding will also support the updating of critical erosion rates and aerial photography to help identify critical eroding areas.

New Public Beach Boundaries Established along Hurricane-Ike Impacted Texas Coast

<http://TexasBeachAccess.org/>

Less than a year after Hurricane Ike left its mark on the Texas coast, the General Land Office released detailed new maps showing the post-Ike boundaries of the public beach in Galveston and Brazoria counties, marking the transition away from the temporary 4.5-foot line of elevation used to determine the boundary of the public beach for emergency permitting and rebuilding after the hurricane. The new maps show the post-Ike boundary of the coast as determined by the Texas Open Beaches Act.

Maine's Coastal Climate Resilience Focus of Sea Grant Documentary

<http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/coastal-community-resilience>

Maine Sea Grant, in partnership with Oregon Sea Grant, is conducting a two-year research project to assess the resilience of coastal communities in the two states. "Building a Resilient Coast: Maine Confronts Climate Change" is a documentary video produced by Oregon Sea Grant that addresses the concerns and interests of Maine coastal residents as identified in preliminary focus groups and an extensive survey of public opinion and needs conducted in conjunction with the Maine Coastal Program and other partners. The ultimate goal of the project is to move behavior toward decisive action that results in coastal communities that are more resilient to climate variability at all scales.

Hawai'i Sea Grant Assesses State Coastal Hazards Bill

<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/SEAGRANT/communication/pdf/GG-10-01.pdf>

"Shoreline Impacts, Setback Policy and Sea Level Rise" (26 pp.) was prepared by the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy (ICAP), located in the University of Hawaii's Sea Grant College Program, at the request of a state senator. The whitepaper reviews local laws related to sea level rise and shoreline setback policy for Hawai'i and other mainland states and assesses the original Senate Bill 468 (2009 session), which deals with coastal hazards such as tsunamis, hurricanes, wind, waves, flooding, erosion, sea level rise, and subsidence. Policy solutions, strategies to enact measures, and suggestions for additional research are also included. ICAP concluded that the bill, as originally introduced, would make coastal communities more resilient to hazards. (The bill has been carried over to the 2010 session.)

Galveston Using FEMA Mitigation Funds to Acquire Homes

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=49128>

With \$20 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Program, the city of Galveston is going to acquire 64 homes that suffered extensive damage as a result of Hurricane Ike.

New Study Shows Superior Construction and Elevation Key to Structural Survival

http://www.disastersafety.org/resource/resmgr/pdfs/hurricane_ike.pdf

According to the Institute of Business and Home Safety (IBHS), minimum flood elevation requirements for properties vulnerable to storm surge throughout the Gulf Coast region are woefully inadequate. "Hurricane Ike: Nature's Force vs. Structural Strength" (60 pp.) reports that all but a handful of properties within the first few rows of houses from the coast on Bolivar Peninsula were washed away during Hurricane Ike, including those built to the highest elevation requirements (up to 19 feet). Ten homes that were designed and built under IBHS' building code-plus new construction program, "Fortified...for safer living," and elevated to 26 feet survived the storm with minor damage. The report also includes recommendations for strengthening the built environment through public policy and building code changes and a retrofit guide that takes into account Texas building code requirements and suggests structural protection options for homeowners.

IOC Links Hazard Awareness and Risk Mitigation to Integrated Coastal Area Management

<http://www.ioc-tsunami.org/content/view/3/1101/>

The International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) has prepared guidelines to help coastal policy makers and managers reduce risks from tsunamis, storm surges, and other coastal hazards within the framework of integrated coastal area management (ICAM). ICAM is a process that unites government and the community, science and management, and sectoral and public interests in preparing and implementing a plan for the development and protection of coastal ecosystems and resources. "Hazard Awareness and Risk Mitigation in Integrated Coastal Management" (145 pp.) introduces ICAM, describes the hazards, and then delves into identifying and quantifying the hazards, measuring vulnerability, assessing the risk, enhancing awareness and preparedness, and mitigating the risk.

Manual Provides Guidance on Accessing and Using Climate Change Information for Adaptation

<http://www.pik-potsdam.de/research/research-domains/climate-impacts-and-vulnerabilities/research/research-field-2-1/nsp/pubs/pik-gtz-adaptation-manual>

Written on behalf of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, "Climate Change Information for Effective Adaptation: A Practitioner's Manual" (60 pp.) is written for development practitioners, but also provides information that may be useful to decision makers and managers in the developed world. The manual focuses on accessing climate change information, interpreting information and dealing with uncertainty, and communicating the resulting knowledge in a careful and responsible way.

New Web Site Looks at Storms Past as if They Struck Today

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

The ICAT Damage Estimator was developed to provide easy access to historical hurricane damage information. All information is open source and based on publicly available data. The interactive, map-based site calculates changes in inflation, increased wealth, and increased population density to estimate damages as if previous storms made landfall in 2009.

CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, TRAININGS

American Shore and Beach Preservation Association National Coastal Conference: Integrating Coastal Science and Policy

St. Pete Beach, Florida

October 14-16, 2009

<http://www.asbpa.org/home.php>

GIS Tools for Strategic Conservation Planning

Shepherdstown, West Virginia

October 27-30, 2009

http://www.csc.noaa.gov/training/gis_tools.html

Adapting to the Risks Posed by Climate Change: A Consensus-Building Approach

Cambridge, Massachusetts

October 29-30, 2009

<http://cbuilding.org/>

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

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

May 16-21, 2010

Abstracts Due October 31, 2009

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

The Coastal Society—Shifting Shorelines: Adapting to the Future

Wilmington, North Carolina

June 13-16, 2010

Abstracts Due October 23, 2009

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

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