Valuing Salt Marshes: The Importance of Linking Physical and Social Science Research

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Salt Marsh Symposium January 24, 2013

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



Outline

- Introduction
- Social Science in NOAA
- Ecosystem Services
- NOAA Ecosystem Research
- Coastal Blue Carbon
- Habitat





Introduction

- NOAA is a science agency, but
 - > Ultimate goals are related to people

 All research maps to social or economic outcomes





NOAA Vision

"Healthy ecosystems, communities, and economies that are resilient in the face of change"



Key Questions

- ✓ How resilient our communities and economies are
- ✓ How people respond to weather forecasts
- ✓ How they derive benefits from the services provided by coastal and ocean ecosystems
- ✓ The impacts to society of climate change



Social Science in NOAA

 Science Advisory Board 2003, 2009 reviews

Social Science Needs Assessment

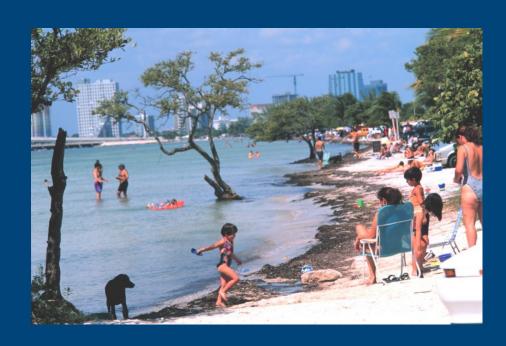


Moving forward



Ecosystem Services

- Framework at NOAA
- Economic Value and Jobs
- Explicitly connects social and physical science



Relevance to those that control the purse strings



Coordination of ES

- National Ecosystem Services Partnership
- Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership

 A Standard Assessment Framework for Ecosystem Services (Duke, NCEAS, SESYNC)

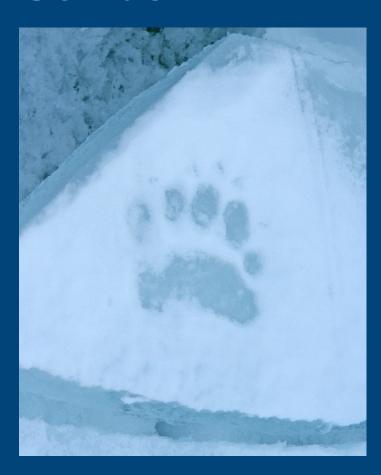
PCAST – Sustaining Environmental capital:
 Protecting Society and the Economy



Sequestration and Storage of Coastal Blue Carbon

 Emissions from conversion and degradation of coastal habitats

Relative magnitude





NOAA and CBC

- NOAA leadership formed a team to analyze:
 - The state of coastal blue carbon science
 - The state of Coastal Blue Carbon policy
- CBC Work Plan
- Domestic Policy





Ecosystem Research

- White paper
- Ecosystem Research Agenda
- Ecosystem research priorities implementation

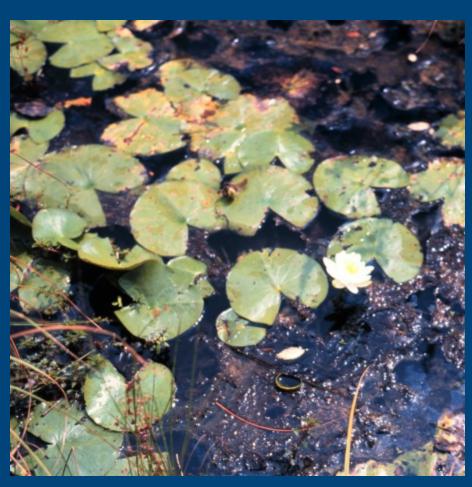




Habitat

Habitat Blueprint

Habitat Focus Areas





Conclusion

- Link between social and physical science
- Pressures on/Benefits of, salt marshes
- Relevance of research





"He is richest who is content with the least, for content is the wealth of nature."

~Socrates

"There are always flowers for those who want to see them." ~ Henri Matisse



Opportunities

- Symposium is an opportunity to
 - learn about each other's research,
 - make connections across institutions and across disciplines, and
 - explore how we can support joint research initiatives and support management decisions

