



## SUMMARY

### 1. Habitat Activities and Accomplishments

- NOAA Announces \$4.9 Million for Collaborative Research Projects to Help Coastal Communities Manage Effects of Climate Change
- National Wildlife Federation Climate Panel Meeting

### 2. Tools and Upcoming Trainings

- The UN Environment Programme Launches “The Blue Carbon Portal”
- National Conservation Training Center Training – Addressing Climate-related Uncertainty for Natural Resource Management (February 11-15, 2013)

### 3. Conferences and Key Events

- Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services in Impact Assessment, Washington, D.C. (February 7-8, 2013)
- 28<sup>th</sup> Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium, Anchorage, AK (March 26-29, 2013)
- 1<sup>st</sup> National Adaptation Forum: *Action today for a better tomorrow*, Denver, CO (April 2-4, 2013)
- Annual Meeting 2013: Society of Wetland Scientists, Duluth, MN (June 2-8, 2013)
- Capitol Hill Ocean Week, Washington, D.C. (June 4-6, 2013)

### 4. Additional References

- Adapting to Climate Change in the Ocean State: A Starting Point. November 2012. Rhode Island Climate Change Commission. 2012 Progress Report.
- Bierbaum, Rosina et al. (2012) A comprehensive review of climate adaptation in the United States: more than before, but less than needed. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*. DOI 10.1007/s11027-012-9423-1.
- Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Atmospheric Programs, Climate Change Division. 2012. Climate Change Indicators in the United States, 2012. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. 81pp.
- Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification (2012): *Ocean Acidification: From Knowledge to Action, Washington State’s Strategic Response*. H. Adelman and L. Whitely Binder (eds). Washington Department of Ecology, Olympia, Washington. Publication no. 12-01-015.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Habitat Activities and Accomplishments

- **NOAA Announces \$4.9 Million for Collaborative Research Projects to Help Coastal Communities Manage Effects of Climate Change**

NOAA and the University of New Hampshire announced more than \$4.9 million to fund nine collaborative research projects aimed at making coastal communities and environments more resilient to rising sea levels, changing weather patterns, extreme storms, and ocean warming and acidification. The grants, made by NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) Science Collaborative through its partnership with the university, will fund projects in South Carolina, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Alabama, Oregon and California. Over the next two years, NERRS-led project teams will bring community stakeholders together with scientists, using the best science to make important resource management and public safety decisions. Projects will address community adaptation to sea level rise, implementation of low-impact development land use practices, oyster and wetland restoration, and river and watershed management. View the full announcement [here](#).

- **National Wildlife Federation Climate Panel Meeting**

On November 15, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) hosted a panel meeting to review its draft vulnerability assessment for the Middle Patuxent River, MD, and develop adaptation strategies based on the vulnerability assessment. The NOAA Restoration Center has partnered with NWF since 2010 to explore how climate change adaptation strategies can be incorporated into restoration planning and implementation. Efforts have focused in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay regions. This project is using the Middle Patuxent as a pilot area to step through a vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy development process. Julie Nygard is participating on the panel. Rich Takacs and Jessica Berrio are also participating as they manage the NWF partnership. Contact: Julie Nygard

## Resources

### Tools and Upcoming Trainings

- **The UN Environment Programme Launches “The Blue Carbon Portal”**  
In December 2012, The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) launched “The Blue Carbon Portal,” a website that aims to improve understanding of blue carbon habitats – marine ecosystems that capture and store atmospheric carbon – and highlight initiatives that support them. Blue carbon habitats include mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, saltwater marshes, and other marine ecosystems with the potential to mitigate climate change. The Blue Carbon Portal, co-managed by UNEP and GRID-Arendal, is “the world’s premier community-based website for all matters related to blue carbon,” providing a discussion forum and networking platform for blue carbon issues and initiatives worldwide. Features of the website include: blue carbon news; a global map illustrating blue carbon projects; an expert blog; a resources page for blue carbon publications, presentations, and videos; and a calendar of blue carbon events. The new website is part of UNEP's Blue Carbon Initiative, which aims to develop a global partnership to promote the sound management of coastal and marine ecosystems in order to ensure that their carbon sequestration and storage functions are sustained. The portal can be found at: <http://bluecarbonportal.org/>.
- **National Conservation Training Center Training – Addressing Climate-related Uncertainty for Natural Resource Management (February 11-15, 2013)**  
This course provides participants with a foundation in structured decision making in the context of natural resource management problems addressing climate-related uncertainty. It will illustrate applications to water resource management, mitigation, and endangered species decisions. A solid foundation in structured decision making begins with understanding current practices, theory, and noteworthy case studies including examples assessing climate change impacts. Register online at <http://training.fws.gov> using DOI Learn. Contact Ashley Fortune ([Ashley\\_Fortune@fws.gov](mailto:Ashley_Fortune@fws.gov)) with any questions.

### Conferences and Key Events

- **Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services in Impact Assessment, Washington, D.C. (February 7-8, 2013)**  
This symposium, organized by the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Biodiversity & Ecology Section, seeks to bring together practitioners working at the cutting edge of biodiversity and ecosystem services with both policy makers responsible for shaping Impact Assessment frameworks and scientists committed to finding practical ways forward. For more information and to register:

<http://iaia.org/IAIA-BioEco-Symposium-DC/>.

- 28<sup>th</sup> Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium, Anchorage, AK (March 26-29, 2013)  
This symposium, titled *Responses of Arctic Marine Ecosystem to Climate Change*, seeks to advance our understanding of present and future responses of arctic marine ecosystems to climate change at all trophic levels from plankton to marine mammals to humans by documenting and forecasting likely changes in environmental processes and the responses of species to those changes. We encourage contributions that focus on collaborative approaches to understanding and managing living marine resources in a changing Arctic and to managing human responses – locally, regionally, and globally – to changing arctic marine ecosystems. For more information and to submit abstracts: <http://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/2013/wakefield-arctic-ecosystems/index.php>.
- 1<sup>st</sup> National Adaptation Forum: *Action today for a better tomorrow*, Denver, CO (April 2-4, 2013)  
NAF is the first of its kind, a national convening on climate change adaptation presenting state-of-the art and science adaptation practice. It combines professional development training, individual presentation, peer networking, and working group innovation opportunities, in order to create the most productive event possible in three days! This professional development event affords attendees the opportunity to learn more about how to make their work climate smart, share what they have learned with others, and develop a stronger network to be climate savvy in all that they do. For more information and to register: <http://www.nationaladaptationforum.org/>.
- Annual Meeting 2013: Society of Wetland Scientists, Duluth, MN (June 2-8, 2013)  
The Society of Wetlands Scientists annual meeting is the premier educational and networking opportunity for scientists, researchers and academics with a passion for advancing the discipline. The meeting will be held at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center in Duluth, Minnesota, June 2-6, 2013. The meeting theme – *Benefit of wetlands. Value to society.* – highlights the connections between basic and applied research and how they improve our understanding and management of wetlands.
- Capitol Hill Ocean Week, Washington, D.C. (June 4-6, 2013)

### Additional References

- Adapting to Climate Change in the Ocean State: A Starting Point. November 2012. Rhode Island Climate Change Commission. 2012 Progress Report.  
Full Report: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Reports/Climate%20Change%20Commission%20Prog%20Report%20Final%2011%2015%2012%20final%202.pdf>
- Bierbaum, Rosina et al. (2012) A comprehensive review of climate adaptation in the United States: more than before, but less than needed. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*. DOI 10.1007/s11027-012-9423-1.  
Full Article: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11027-012-9423-1>
- Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Atmospheric Programs, Climate Change Division. 2012. Climate Change Indicators in the United States, 2012. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. 81pp.  
Full Report: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/pdfs/climateindicators-full-2012.pdf>
- Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification (2012): *Ocean Acidification: From Knowledge to Action, Washington State's Strategic Response*. H. Adelman and L. Whitely Binder (eds). Washington Department of Ecology, Olympia, Washington. Publication no. 12-01-015.  
Full Report: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/1201015.pdf>