



Sentinel Site Quarterly

*North Carolina
Sentinel Site Cooperative*

Welcome to the second issue of the Sentinel Site Quarterly!

The North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative (NCSSC) was established in 2012 as part of a NOAA-wide effort to provide coastal communities and resource managers with information on the potential impacts of sea-level rise on coastal habitats.

The Core Management Team Welcomes New Members

The NCSSC is pleased to announce that **Troy Alphin** from UNC-Wilmington, **Michelle Covi** from East Carolina University, and **Rich Bandy** from the National Weather Service have joined the Core Management Team. We are looking forward to working with these new members and having their interests and expertise shape the future of the Cooperative.

The Core Management Team is responsible for implementation of the NCSSC including finalizing and updating the Cooperative's Implementation Plan; developing, completing, and tracking progress on annual operating plans; and communicating the Cooperative's work to interested parties.

For more information or to join the Core Management Team, contact [Whitney Jenkins](#).

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Water Level Subcommittee Meets

On June 5th, the Water Level Subcommittee had its first meeting to discuss coordination of existing water level monitoring and potential increase in monitoring. The six-member Subcommittee decided to update the [SECOORA](#) inventory to include known water level monitoring resources (both deployed and non deployed), known water level data sets, and how water level data are being used. This work will be done via email and the Subcommittee will reconvene to discuss next steps to enhance some of the existing installed infrastructure and/or where new infrastructure would be most beneficial.

Have questions about or interested in joining the Water Level Subcommittee, contact [John Fear](#).

Seeking Feedback on Implementation Plan

The NCSSC Implementation Plan was developed earlier this year and feedback on the Plan was solicited at the March 2013 Research and Monitoring Coordination Workshop. However, there are still many partners that have not reviewed the plan.

Partner feedback will enable the NCSSC to be its most effective and ensure the NCSSC is relevant to all stakeholder needs.

Please take some time to read the [Implementation Plan](#) and [Appendix I](#). After reviewing the Implementation Plan, [please fill out this survey to provide feedback](#).

The deadline to provide feedback via the survey is **Thursday, August 15**.

Please send this information to your colleagues who have not yet had a chance to learn about the Cooperative and review the Implementation Plan. Thank you!

Communicating Changing Conditions Workshops held in Elizabeth City and Jacksonville

In April and May, N.C. Sea Grant, East Carolina University, and COSEE (Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence) hosted two workshops titled Communicating Changing Conditions at the Coast.

These workshops were targeted at public information officers, non-formal educators, and land use planners with the objectives of creating

a broader network of people delivering and exchanging information on sea-level rise; increasing participants' knowledge of sea-level rise science; and refining



participants' skills for communicating about sea-level rise.

Forty-seven people attended the two workshops, including N.C. Aquarium staff, local land use planners, and federal agency staff. Through facilitated breakout groups, workshop participants began to develop communication products, including climate change curricula for teachers and students; a climate change training session for aquarium volunteers; a brochure on best practices for waterfront development for homeowners; and a workshop for scientists on how to effectively communicate their research.

The workshop organizers hope to create a communication community of practice with the workshop participants, and have developed this [web page](#) to help participants continue to collaborate. The [web page](#) also includes presentations from the workshop.

Update from the National Sentinel Site Program

NOAA's Sentinel Site Program (SSP) consists of five Cooperatives, which include North Carolina, Chesapeake Bay, Northern Gulf of Mexico, San Francisco Bay, and Hawaiian Islands. The goal is for these Cooperatives to utilize the full force of NOAA coastal and ecosystem monitoring, measurement, and tools in partnership with federal, state, and local efforts to help solve concrete problems that people are facing in coastal communities.



The SSP is overseen by the Coordination Committee. Currently this Committee is assessing the priority gaps that each Cooperative has identified and presenting them to NOAA leadership as areas that would benefit from directed resources. The priority gaps for the NCSSC include a dedicated coordinator and those identified at the March 2013 Research and Monitoring Coordination Workshop:

- The need for more water level measures;
- The development of a central clearinghouse for Cooperative data;
- Increased awareness of sea-level rise issues and its impacts;
- Understanding sediment supply and dynamics, and land use changes;
- Improve coastal LIDAR data and bathymetry;
- Economic assessment of sea-level rise impacts on the built environment and ecosystem services; and
- More water quality and data collection stations.

The SSP Coordination Committee has also formed a sub-team to focus on communications and outreach and another sub-team to focus on strategic planning. These sub-teams will help the Coordination Committee better address these program needs and provide recommendations on how to move forward.

For more information about the SSP, contact the NCSSC's liaison to the Coordination Committee, [Karsten Shein](#).

Resilient Tourism Indicators Project to focus on North Carolina & San Francisco Bay Cooperatives

Here is a synopsis of a project headed up by NOAA's Coastal Services Center, which will focus on the North Carolina and San Francisco Bay Sentinel Site Cooperative geographies:



Recreation and tourism is a major contributor to all states' economic growth and development. By any measure, Travel and Tourism is one of the largest sectors in the U.S. economy supporting more than five million jobs, with two million of those jobs directly tied to the resources of the oceans and Great Lakes. At the same time the resilience of the tourism industry, to disasters such as hurricanes and mass oil spills, is an important concern.

To date most research concerned with tourism crises and disasters have focused on response and recovery, versus planning and preparation, which is crucial to develop resilience. There appears to be a lack of understanding and insight into 1) whether tourism businesses are actually adopting techniques and processes to become more resilient, and 2) the key factors that may constrain or facilitate recovery from adverse and catastrophic events. These are the types of information this study hopes to uncover in two select geographies of the United States: the San Francisco Bay and the Central North Carolina Coast.

The purpose of observing two very different geographies is to learn of potential differences in rural versus highly urbanized coastal areas. This will further the understanding of indicators that are unique to the geography, as well as indicators that may possess more universal/national implications.

For more information about this project, contact [Chris Ellis](#) at NOAA's [Coastal Services Center](#).

The NOAA Sentinel Site Program leverages existing research and monitoring resources to ensure resilient coastal communities and ecosystems in the face of changing conditions. The program's place-based approach focuses on issues of local, regional, and national significance that impact habitats and species managed by NOAA as well as surrounding coastal communities.

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