



Tools, Techniques, and Tactics for Advancing Successful Climate Adaptation

Overview

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System's Coastal Training Program is well positioned to lead conversations that advance climate adaptation in coastal communities. Each of the 29 reserves has longstanding relationships with members of their local communities across scientific, political, and cultural boundaries, enabling them to engage diverse stakeholders in dialogues about their priorities, values, and visions for a climate-resilient future. Regardless of their locations and stages in planning for climate change, all reserves have identified a need for tools and techniques that will enable communities to advance these important and often challenging conversations.

This project leverages the collaborative efforts already conducted by five reserves—Tijuana River, Kachemak Bay, Jacques Cousteau, Hudson River, and Wells—which have been participating in the *Successful Adaptation Indicators and Metrics* (SAIM) project. As part of the SAIM project, the five reserves have hosted workshops to help their communities develop collective goals for climate adaptation and identify specific indicators and metrics for evaluating progress toward a more climate resilient future. This project is enabling those reserves to refine and share the lessons and resources they've developed to date with the full reserve system and key regional and national partners.

Anticipated Benefits

- Increased capacity among reserve staff to lead, engage in, and facilitate local adaptation dialogues.
- Enhanced local, regional, and national conversations around how to evaluate whether communities are successfully adapting to climate change and related coastal hazards.
- A set of tools that will support the capacity building for these challenging conversations.
- Strengthened collaborative relationships among staff in the reserve system, as well as among the individual reserves and their regional and local partners around climate adaptation and evaluation.

Project Location

National Estuarine Research Reserve System

Project Duration

September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019

Project Lead

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Project Type

Catalyst – Targeted investment for advancing collaborative science

Project Partners

- Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

Technical Support

- Susanne Moser, NERRS Science Collaborative

Project Approach

The project team will create an online toolbox, which will contain tools—such as case studies and facilitation guides—that were developed by each of the reserves as part of their individual work with the SAIM project. After drafting content for the toolbox, the project team will host a workshop for reserve staff at the reverse system's 2018 Annual Meeting to gain feedback on toolbox content to ensure it best meets system-wide needs. One month later, the team will conduct a similar workshop at the 2018 Restore America's Estuaries Conference, where they will introduce partners to the project and gain additional input on toolbox content. Feedback generated from these two workshops will guide the project team in their development of the toolbox and allow them to refine the tools being included.

Following the development of the final toolbox, the collaborating reserves will lead local conversations with partners in their respective regions to further disseminate information about the tools and—based on additional user feedback and input—refine the toolbox for wider application. Subsequently, the project team will host a virtual training to unveil the tools and teach end users how to use the toolbox to facilitate climate adaptation dialogues. Toolbox content will be accessible online, and will be broadly promoted for use by a wide variety of partners.

Targeted End Users and Anticipated Products

The project team is developing a set of resources that are meant to support the work of reserve staff. The new web-based toolbox will include tools such as facilitation guides, demonstration videos, case studies, graphics, readings, and/or training curriculum. Reserve staff from around the country will learn about how new tools, techniques, and tactics can advance adaptation dialogues within their own communities.

About the Science Collaborative

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System's Science Collaborative supports collaborative research that addresses coastal management problems important to the reserves. The Science Collaborative is managed by the University of Michigan's Water Center through a cooperative agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Funding for the research reserves and this program comes from NOAA. Learn more at coast.noaa.gov/nerrs or graham.umich.edu/water/nerrs.