



FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the NOAA Fellows

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FOCUS ON FELLOWS Cinamon Moffett



As a child living in the historic logging town of Buckley in western Washington State, a familiar scenic backdrop for Coastal Fellow Cinamon Moffett included the majestic Cascade Mountains with their lakes and hiking trails. But family vacations opened Cinamon’s eyes to a fascinating, new kind of scenery—the dramatic Washington coast.

“My parents loved Washington’s coastal state parks because they are

history buffs. Also, it was a place where the four of us kids could get out of the car and run around without driving them crazy!” says Cinamon. Her passion and appreciation for the coast began during these special vacations.

Graduating from Western Washington University with a BS in environmental science and a concentration in marine ecology, Cinamon spent several years as an educator with the Port Townsend Marine Science Center on Puget Sound. “I had the chance on a daily basis to help kids and adults connect with the marine environment. A love for that experience is my foundation, and it drives me professionally,” she emphasizes.

Despite her enjoyment of the job, Cinamon came to feel it was time to learn more, so she attended the University of Maine to complete two master’s degrees, in marine biology and marine policy. For her thesis, Cinamon analyzed the bycatch levels of shrimp trappers in the Gulf of Maine over two harvesting seasons. Along the way, she developed great respect for these commercial shrimpers.

“They genuinely care about their community and the environment, because it’s how they make their living,” says Cinamon. “They said to me, ‘We want the scientific results on the bycatch to be out there and in the open.’” Cinamon’s research findings showed these shrimpers to be

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good environmental stewards. Their bycatch amounts registered well below the international recommended target.

Now Cinamon is back on the West Coast, working as a fellow for the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP), which is part of the state's Department of Land Conservation and Development. She supports coastal community planners by working to incorporate the best available science into local estuary management plans.

Part of this work involves talking to local planners and completing estuary needs assessments. Digital capacity is an outstanding need. Currently, 14 percent of Oregon's coastal communities are very limited in their digital capacity.

"I am working with my mentor, Tanya Haddad, to update the online Oregon Coastal Atlas to make digital data accessible to local coastal planners who don't have in-house GIS staff or technology," says Cinamon. (Haddad is the atlas coordinator.)

Cinamon is also part of a team that is updating estuary habitat maps. She spends many days working as a data sleuth, tracking down estuarine digital data from a wide variety of nonprofits, academic institutions, and local, state, and federal agencies. She uses her GIS skills to organize and process the data.

Once all the estuary data and information updates are collected and processed, the entire data set will "go live" on the Coastal Atlas. "At that point, I'll start going back to city and county planners to train them on how to use the data catalog and mapping interface," adds Cinamon.

When asked about the fellowship support she's received, Cinamon finds it impossible to give thanks to just one or two OCMP colleagues. "They are an amazing and passionate group of people. I felt immediately welcomed and supported, not only within OCMP but all the way to the local, county, and city planning departments that collaborate with them," she says.

"This fellowship has enabled me to take my knowledge of marine policy and move it from the theoretical to the applied. I've also had the opportunity to expand my GIS skills and build a professional community in Oregon," notes Cinamon, adding that she has gotten very attached to the local marine science community and the beauty of the Oregon coast.

Even so, she is open to opportunities elsewhere once the fellowship ends. "For me, the most important consideration is how to balance science, policy, and community outreach," emphasizes Cinamon. "If I can continue to build bridges in my future career, and keep that kind of balance, I'll be very happy." 



FOCUS ON FELLOWS Hilary Papendick

Coastal Fellow Hilary Papendick's past travel adventures, both in the U.S. and abroad, always seemed to go hand-in-hand with intense opportunities to learn about different cultures and environments. Her fellowship with the California Coastal Commission offers a new twist on that familiar theme—an intense learning experience that takes place not somewhere unknown or exotic, but in the Bay Area she calls home.

Growing up in Marin County about 30 minutes north of San Francisco, Hilary helped raise chickens on the family's half-acre plot—that is, when she wasn't climbing trees or taking part in outdoor adventures like canoeing and kayaking. As a teen, Hilary was sad to see beautiful natural areas in the

county snapped up by developers and turned into subdivisions. "That's when preserving the environment really started to become important to me," she says.

Attending Scripps College, Hilary obtained a BS in public policy analysis with a concentration on science, technology, and society. During both high school and college, Hilary took opportunities to travel abroad to Mexico, Ecuador, and New Zealand for volunteer or academic experiences.

I had the most amazing time learning about different cultures," notes Hilary. "For example, in Ecuador, I took college ecology courses and helped teach ecology at a local elementary school. We took the children to a national park nearby, and they drew pictures of their observations. It was wonderful."

Following graduation, Hilary worked at an environmental science camp in Alaska, an outdoor science school in Montana, and a bird observatory in California. She also was a study-abroad advisor for two years at Montana State University. As rewarding as all these experiences proved to be, Hilary realized that her passion was in environmental policy and social science, so she attended the University of Washington to obtain an MS in social science and an MPA (master of public administration).

During graduate school, Hilary worked for the City of Seattle, researching how the city was preparing for climate change. "I interviewed staff members of different departments and got a 'big picture' view of what was already being accomplished and where more could be done," she notes. Her graduate thesis built upon that knowledge, as Hilary researched what sorts of steps were being taken by Washington's coastal zone towns to prepare for sea level rise.

Her research background proved an obvious plus when Hilary was chosen as a fellow for the California Coastal Commission. As part of the agency's climate change outreach and coordination efforts, Hilary is developing a guide on how best to incorporate sea level rise considerations into the commission's planning and regulatory efforts. The guide is targeted to commission staff members, local government personnel, and applicants for coastal development permits.

"I'm looking at what our state is already doing in this area, what more can be done, and also what other states are doing that is working well," notes Hilary, who is also collecting the best available science and data on the subject. "For example, in our state it's not a completely new idea to incorporate sea level rise considerations into

planning efforts. What will be new, with this document, is clear guidance on effective ways to go about this process."

Once complete, the guide will be available both as a pdf document and as individual chapters online. Now undergoing staff review, the guide will be opened up for public review in summer 2013. Hilary hopes to incorporate final comments and bring the document back to the commission for final approval before her fellowship ends.

Hilary thanks her mentor, Susan Hansch, who is the commission's deputy director, for providing both support for her questions and permission to work independently at times. She also thanks Lesley Ewing, senior coastal engineer, for her help with the guidance document. "With the commission's support, I've been able to attend many state conferences on climate change, and as a result I've gotten to know people who work on this issue," she adds.

What is in store for Hilary when the fellowship ends? "It's been a great experience to start getting up to speed on the sea level rise and adaptation field in the Bay Area," she says, "and I'd love to stay, but I am also open to new opportunities. In the future I would really like to work on the implementation side of these sea level rise recommendations!" 

FOCUS ON THE COASTAL FELLOWSHIP: SEA GRANT ENDORSEMENTS

The NOAA Coastal Services Center has received the 2013-2015 Coastal Management Fellowship endorsements from Sea Grant. The Center received 44 applications from 22 Sea Grant programs across the country. Using four criteria—academic performance and diversity of educational background, endorsement by the applicant’s Sea Grant director, support from two letters of recommendation, and content of the applicant’s goal statement—12 finalists will be selected from among these candidates.

A workshop to match states with fellows will take place in Charleston, South Carolina, from April 22 to 26, 2013. Of the finalists selected, six will be placed with a host state. Each of the selected host states will send its fellow mentor to the placement workshop, and the finalists will be brought to the workshop at the expense of the Center.

The workshop consists of an orientation, project proposal presentations, finalist presentations, finalist and host state interviews, and fellow matching. If a state does not find a suitable candidate during the

workshop, it will be given the option to defer fellow placement for one year. States will only be allowed one deferment before they have to reapply.

This year, the host states are California (California Coastal Commission), Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Oregon. For more information on 2013 state projects, please visit the fellowship website at www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/stateprojects.html or contact the fellowship coordinator at csc.fellowships@noaa.gov. 

Information Resources for Coastal Problem Solvers.

(Yes, you are a coastal problem solver.)



GeoZone Blog. Typical technical topics. Untypical, to-the-point answers.

Stories. Real organizations addressing real coastal issues.

Apply It. The “how-to” information and task-specific tools.



DIGITAL COAST
NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER

www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast

C-CAP Land Cover Data Updates

Winter 2013

- Western Great Lakes

Spring 2013

- Mid-Atlantic
- Southeast
- Washington

Summer 2013

- Eastern Great Lakes
- Northeast
- Florida

Fall 2013

- Gulf of Mexico

Winter 2014

- Oregon and California



UPDATE

Available from the Digital Coast

Questions? Contact us at csc.info@noaa.gov.

www.csc.noaa.gov/landcover

FOCUS ON THE CENTER

JOINING FORCES: THE CENTER AND OCRM

Two leading coastal management offices, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and Coastal Services Center, are merging. The resulting organization's new strategic direction will strengthen NOAA's coastal leadership and service mission.

The process is still underway but should be complete soon. In August 2012 the U.S. Senate included direction in NOAA's budget to integrate the two offices in fiscal year 2013. The NOAA administrator endorsed the initial steps. A transition team, using external input, developed a five-year strategic plan, an organizational framework, and a reorganization package for agency review and approval. NOAA intends to submit the reorganization package this year and operate as a merged organization in fiscal year 2014.

A compelling reason for the merger is the expected efficiency and effectiveness that will result. The Center provides many of the products and services used by coastal resource managers. When the two entities become one, a stronger connection will exist between the needs of the user and the development of the product.

All programs and program supporters of the new organization will find it easier to work together toward common goals. New opportunities will open up for sharing expertise and lessons learned within this management and resource structure. Beneficiaries of the new, shared enterprise will include the Digital Coast, Coastal Zone Management Act, the corals program, national estuarine research reserves, and many other efforts.

The merger will also allow the new organization to have a stronger regional presence. Key programs will be represented in the regions and will be responsible for keeping a close watch on constituent needs and bringing a relevant suite of products and services to those working on the local level.

In addition, more people in the field and less overhead will mean more time spent understanding the big picture in terms of coastal management needs and working with other organizations to implement workable solutions.

Keep reading *Fellow News* for updates as the merger progresses. For additional information, contact csc.info@noaa.gov. 

What's New on Digital Coast?

In the coming months, NOAA's 2011 regional land cover data will be rolled out to help coastal professionals understand the effects of past land use decisions, document trends, and consider future land use planning needs.

Regional 2011 data sets are now available for Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Illinois via the Data Access Viewer at www.csc.noaa.gov/dataviewer. Check the schedule below for news about your region's 2011 data, made possible by NOAA's Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP).

Spring 2013

- Western Great Lakes
- Mid-Atlantic
- Southeast
- Washington

Summer 2013

- Eastern Great Lakes
- Northeast
- Florida

Fall 2013

- Gulf of Mexico

Winter 2014

- Oregon and California

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

APRIL

13 to 17: **Annual Conference of the American Planning Association**
Chicago, Illinois
www.planning.org/conference

MAY

28 to 30: **Headwaters to Ocean Conference**
San Diego, California
www.coastalconference.org/h20_2013/index.php

JUNE

9 to 14: **Association of State Floodplain Managers 2013 Conference**
Hartford, Connecticut
www.asfpmconference.org

NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TRAINING

APRIL

On-Site:

4 to 5: Planning for Meaningful Evaluation
Providence, Rhode Island

8 to 9: Project Design and Evaluation
Homer, Alaska

23 to 25: Climate Adaptation for Coastal Communities
West Long Branch, New Jersey

24 to 25: Project Design and Evaluation
Leesburg, Virginia

MAY

Online:

14: CanVis

23: OpenNSPECT

On-Site:

8 to 9: Public Issues and Conflict Management
Gloucester, Virginia

JUNE

On-Site:

5 to 6: Public Issues and Conflict Management
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

For more information on virtual and site-specific trainings, visit www.csc.noaa.gov/training.

CREDITS AND INFORMATION

Fellow News is published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center to relay information about the fellowship program and provide a forum for information exchange among fellows, mentors, Sea Grant, and the Center.

Please send your questions and suggestions for future editions to csc.fellowships@noaa.gov

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