



FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the NOAA Fellows

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FOCUS ON FELLOWS Chelsie Papiez



It can truly be said that Coastal Fellow Chelsie Papiez learned about the wonders of the natural world at home on a small farm nestled between the Cascade Range and Olympic Mountains in Olympia, Washington.

“Growing up in a rural environment, I was ingrained with a deep understanding and respect for how our food gets to our dinner plate,” says Chelsie. “My friends’

homes were in the suburbs, but they loved coming to my house and helping me collect eggs and feed the cows. I never thought of my chores as work, because the more time I spent outside, the better.”

Chelsie’s interest in nature was matched by a passion for science, and in high school, she says, “I took pretty much every science class I could.” She completed a bachelor of arts degree in botany at the University of Washington, the highlight of which was a 10-week course in marine botany and zoology at the school’s Friday Harbor Labs, a world-renowned research facility on San Juan Island in Puget Sound.

After a postgraduate year working on educational outreach for the National Wildlife Federation, Chelsie returned to Olympia to complete a master’s in environmental studies at the Evergreen State College. The experience allowed her to see her hometown in a whole new light.

“The progressive thinking coming out of Evergreen was fascinating to me,” says Chelsie. While there, she helped lead clean-energy activities on campus and assisted the college president by organizing a regional “Focus the Nation” event, as part of the largest teach-in on responding to climate change that has ever been held in the U.S.

Chelsie’s graduate research project was equally fascinating. For six months she lived on the Quileute Reservation, home of the coastal

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Chelsie spending time with her grandmother and nephew.

Native American tribe, while she documented potential markers of climate change observed by the Quileute and Hoh peoples. Her thesis project integrated scientific findings with tribal oral histories that mentioned the area's weather, resources, and harvests going back many generations.

"New species were showing up that had never been heard about or even seen—for example, the brown pelican, which has been migrating farther north on both the East and West Coasts," she emphasizes. A high point in Chelsie's experience was coming back to celebrate with the Hoh Tribe when it successfully passed federal legislation to move to higher ground, a vital step for tribe members, whose livelihoods were threatened by sea level rise and increased flooding.

Chelsie feels fortunate that she has been able to follow her passion for climate change adaptation in her fellowship duties. Working for the Chesapeake and Coastal Program of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Chelsie is helping to establish conservation criteria that consider the effects of climate change.

"Our agency's online mapper [at www.greenprint.maryland.gov/] shows properties being considered for purchase by the state for conservation purposes," says Chelsie. "My project involves adding information and data that can be used to address climate change impacts. Basically, we're looking at sea level rise as far ahead as 2100 and trying to set conservation priorities that

will help Maryland adapt to climate change through coastal land conservation efforts."

Each piece of property considered for conservation will be given a climate change "score" that helps Maryland's Board of Public Works consider its adaptive capacity before deciding whether it should be purchased. "It's a high-profile project that adds some pressure, but I'm really excited about this progressive approach to conservation, and it's also great that the whole modeling and mapping process will be transparent and trackable online," notes Chelsie.

Chelsie's two mentors at DNR are essential to her success. "This project is all about GIS, and Catherine McCall has given me so much hands-on guidance in that area. Zoe Johnson is teaching me a lot about the ins and outs of policy, especially how good projects can lead to the creation of important policies." McCall is a coastal resource specialist and Johnson is a program manager for climate change policy. "Also, the bulk of the modeling is being done by George Edmonds, a GIS programmer from Towson University. He does amazing work," she adds.

Where does Chelsie see herself once the fellowship ends in August? "Of course, I'm open to possibilities," she says, "but I'd really like to continue working on climate change adaptation, because that's my passion." 

FOCUS ON THE COASTAL FELLOWSHIP: 2011 State Projects Selected

Six exciting new projects have been selected for the 2011-2013 Coastal Management Fellowship. Below is a summary of each of these projects for the coming year. Recruiting efforts are well underway, but we need your help to spread the word to eligible applicants. Remember, applications should be submitted to area Sea Grant directors and are due no later than January 28, 2011.

Host Agency: California Coastal Commission

Location: San Francisco, California

Project Goal: Improve analysis, coordination, and communication to plan for and adapt to climate change

Host Agency: Michigan Coastal Management Program

Location: Lansing, Michigan

Project Goal: Develop metrics, tools, and plans to address competing uses in Michigan's working waterfronts

Host Agency: New Jersey Coastal Management Program

Location: Trenton, New Jersey

Project Goal: Develop a stakeholder framework and decision-support tools for coastal and marine spatial planning

Host Agency: New York Department of State Division of Coastal Resources

Location: Albany, New York

Project Goal: Develop an offshore spatial plan for managing competing uses in a crowded offshore environment

Host Agency: Oregon Coastal Management Program

Location: Portland, Oregon

Project Goal: Address climate change, restoration, and sustainability on the Oregon coast

Host Agency: South Carolina Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

Location: Charleston, South Carolina

Project Goal: Identify vulnerabilities and mitigate coastal hazards in South Carolina

For more information on the 2011 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. 

What's New on Digital Coast?

Landscape Fragmentation

Tool – This tool, from the University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research, can be used to quantify the amount of landscape fragmentation and evaluate potential habitat impacts.

Raster Navigational

Charts – NOAA's Office of Coast Survey produced these full-color digital images of NOAA's paper navigational charts. Raster navigational charts can be used in many electronic charting systems.

U.S. Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Online

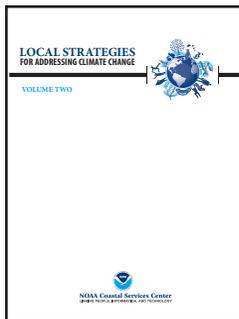
Mapping Tool – This tool, designed by NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center, helps users visualize MPA boundaries and provides access to MPA classification and spatial data.

Information is available on these and other Digital Coast additions at www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/updates.html. 

FOCUS ON THE CENTER

Special Publications Explore Topics in Depth

As a subscriber to *Fellow News*, you are probably aware that NOAA Coastal Services Center publications such as *Coastal Connections* and *Coastal Services* cover a wide range of management issues, approaches, and new tools. But did you know that the Center's website also features an expanding library of publications and reports that explore a specific management issue, method, technical skill, or tool? Three of the newest offerings are described below, and all can be downloaded as PDFs from www.csc.noaa.gov/publications.html.



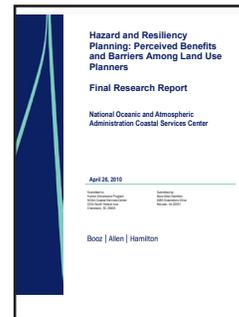
Local Strategies for Addressing Climate Change, Volume Two – A companion to volume one, this publication showcases the many tools, programs, and projects already in place that address the impacts of climate change. All articles

first appeared in *Coastal Services*. The following stories, and others, are featured: number of North Carolina communities hit hard by Hurricane Floyd in 1999 have responded by becoming more resilient than ever; a Gulf-region climate camp teaches storm-traumatized teens what can be done to prepare for future climate and weather events; and communities in Wisconsin, Maryland, and Florida have preserved “green infrastructure” to reduce flooding and nurture populations of animals and plants.



Marine Spatial Planning Stakeholder Analysis – Marine spatial planning (MSP) is becoming a critical concern in coastal management. To shed light on the topic, the authors of *Marine Spatial Planning*

Stakeholder Analysis gleaned information about eight NOAA coastal regions via literature reviews, Web searches, and interviews. The 76-page report, which was commissioned by the Center and completed by Eastern Research Group, Inc., illuminates the concerns of today's stakeholders and details current and potential future uses of MSP tools.



Hazard and Resiliency Planning: Perceived Benefits and Barriers among Land Use Planners – This publication, commissioned by the Center and completed by the consulting firm of Booz Allen Hamilton, explores specific behaviors

related to hazards risk and resilience among land-use planners in four NOAA coastal regions. The report also investigates the perceived and actual benefits associated with resilience-related behaviors, as well as the perceived and actual barriers to these same behaviors. By outlining these individuals' beliefs and perceptions—as well as the historical, economic, and other conditions that influence beliefs—the report can help readers refine their resilience education and outreach efforts.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

JANUARY

19 to 21: **U.S. National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment**
Washington, D.C.
<http://communities.earthportal.org/ncseoceans2011/>

FEBRUARY

9 to 11: **24th Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology**
Jacksonville, Florida
www.fsbpa.com/techconference.htm

7 to 10: **6th International Conference on Remediation of Contaminated Sediments**
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.battelle.org/conferences/sediments/

MARCH

21 to 24: **Coastal GeoTools 2011**
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
<http://geotools.csc.noaa.gov>

14 to 18: **Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World**
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.georgewright.org/gws2011/

NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TRAINING

CanVis Virtual Workshop
January 19
February 16
March 16

Coastal Inundation Mapping
February 23
Columbia, South Carolina

February 27 to March 3
Bellingham, Washington

March 20
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Habitat Priority Planner
March 1
Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Planning for Meaningful Evaluation
January 12 to 13
Los Angeles, California

February 15 and 16
Cambridge, Massachusetts

March 1 to 2
Fairhope, Alabama

Project Design and Evaluation
January 25 to 26
Gainesville, Florida

Public Issues and Conflict Management
February 8 and 9
Dover, Delaware

March 30 and 31
Gainesville, Florida

Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk Virtual Training
February 9

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

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CREDITS AND INFORMATION

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

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www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellownews/