Coastal Blue Carbon: Progress and Priorities
“My object in living is to unite
My avocation and my vocation
As my two eyes make one in sight.
Only where love and need are one,
And the work is play for mortal stakes,
Is the deed ever really done
For Heaven and the future’s sake”

- Robert Frost, Two Tramps in Mud Time
Blue Carbon Strategy

It’s about healthy and resilient coastal ecosystems!
Blue Carbon Strategy

Connecting improved **Science** and **Quantification** to support:

- Enhanced *Policies* and *Management*
- New *Financial* Opportunities
- Persuasive *Advocacy* and *Communications*
Vital contributions from the scientific community, far too numerous to list, have led to an enabling environment.
Data Resolution for Decision-Making

Picasso (Tier 1)

Monet (Tier 2)

Canaletto (Tier 3)

Steve Crooks, Silvestrum Climate Associates
Policy and Management

NOAA-led study on national policy/regulatory options
- CWA, NEPA, NRDA, CZMA
- Incorporation of carbon services in these policies could lead to more habitat conservation

2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands
- Inclusion of Blue Carbon in US National GHG Inventory
White House Attention

• Priority Agenda: Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America’s Natural Resources (2014)
• Ecosystem-Service Assessment: Research Needs for Coastal Green Infrastructure (2014)
• Incorporating Ecosystem Services into Federal Decision Making [Memorandum for Executive Departments and Agencies] (2016)

Models and GHG Calculators

• GPRA – Tampa Bay Estuary Program – calculator
• Blue Carbon calculator – MA Division of Ecological Restoration
• Bringing Wetlands to Market – GHG Model
• Marsh Equilibrium Model
Financial Opportunities

1. Blue Ribbon Panel
2. Eligibility/Additionality
3. Permanence
4. Quantification
5. Case studies

- **VM0033 Methodology for Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration**
- **Blue Carbon in Practice Manual**
- **Conservation Methodology** *(in development)*
Financial Opportunities

Other market opportunities
- ACR methodology
- VCS - wetland creation

Pilot Projects
- Herring River Restoration, Cape Cod National Seashore – carbon project feasibility study (VM0033)
- New Jersey tidal wetlands
- Target areas with high reward, low complexity
Advocacy and Communications

Extensive Outreach and Education
  Workshops and webinars
  Websites and resources
  Briefings

Existing Networks:
  U.S. National Working Group
  International science and policy working groups
  N. American – Commission for Environmental Cooperation
  Regional working groups
Communications Potential of Blue Carbon
Puget Sound study
• Key concept that allows discussion about topics in a different frame with audiences not moved by traditional messaging
• Put Blue Carbon in context with other ecosystem benefits
• Multiple benefits, multiple reasons appeal to varied interests

Blue Carbon Is Charismatic
Incorporate into standard and new messaging in different media – websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.

Miami Herald, Nov. 25
“Everglades mangroves might hold billion-dollar fix for climate change”
Priorities

Science
GHG fluxes for natural, restored, and degraded/degrading tidal wetlands
Regional/estuary-specific data and analysis
Global data network
Models, calculators

Financial Opportunities
Pilot projects with existing methodologies
Finalize and pilot Conservation Methodology

Policy and Management
National GHG Accounting, climate mitigation
Policy Impact Assessment (CWA, NRDA, NEPA)

Advocacy and Communications
Link to other ecosystem services
Thank you!

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