Working in Partnerships to Explore the Potential of Coastal Blue Carbon Habitats to Enhance Coastal Conservation

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Overview

• How NOAA engages in blue carbon partnerships
  • International
  • Science
  • Policy
  • Management
  • Emerging

• How NOAA’s work on coastal blue carbon has progressed
NOAA Coastal Blue Carbon Partnerships

NOAA Mission

To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts, share that knowledge and information with others and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.
Internationally Reaching Partnerships

- Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)
  - Filling data and policy gaps
  - Deadline driven project management
- GEF Blue Forests
  - Co-financer
  - Steering committee membership

Unique opportunities to leverage resources
Partnerships In Science

• Sea Grant Program research
• NASA Satellite and Soil Data Validation
  • Advancing assessments to higher resolution data
• Global Science and Data Network for Coastal Blue Carbon
  • Database of coastal blue carbon data

USGS, Menlo Park, California (January 2016)
Partnerships In Science - Highlight

- Research at National Estuarine Research Reserve System sites
  - CEC soil organic carbon density research at 8 NERRS sites
  - Bringing Wetlands to Market at Waquoit Bay NERR

NOAA has funded more than $2.0 million in research at the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Partnership in Policy - Highlight

- Coastal Wetlands Carbon Work Group
  - White House Priority Agenda Action-2013
  - NOAA leading with RAE and the EPA
  - Identifying knowledge gaps for more refined data.

Coastal wetlands will be included in the 2017 U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory
Partnerships In Management

- **Snohomish River Estuary**, Washington
  - Rebuilding Chinook salmon stocks
  - Reducing flooding and increasing resilience
  - WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, TNC, Tulalip Tribes
  - 2014 Blue Carbon Landscape Assessment to show added value of wetlands

- **Tillamook Bay**, Oregon
  - Restoring tidal flow and habitat access
  - Measuring carbon flux in restored wetlands
Partnerships In Management Highlight- Herring River

NOAA is working with more than 20 partners on the Herring River Restoration Project.
Emerging Partnerships

• National Academy of Science Study
  • Carbon dioxide removal and sequestration

• International Partnership for Blue carbon
  • Exchanging information

BlueCarbonPartnership.org
For more than 6 years, NOAA has been strategically engaging in coastal blue carbon partnerships.
Key Messages

• **Partners are key** for:
  - Science collaborations
  - Management applications
  - Helping to focus on needs and gaps
  - Through **partnerships** we are better **understanding and recognizing** the carbon sequestration and storage **values** of coastal wetlands.

• **Keep talking to us** about your work, gaps and needs.
Questions?
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For more information:
http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/coastalbluecarbon.html
“NOAA’s early and continued leadership in supporting and advancing blue carbon in these areas has been critical to the elevation of blue carbon as an important ecosystem service, and it is leading to more informed decisions in the conservation and management of our coastal and marine ecosystems.”
—Restore America’s Estuaries

“NOAA’s efforts in coordinating work on Blue Carbon have helped to expand awareness within the USG and beyond on the important role these ecosystems have on the global GHG balance and adapting to sea-level rise.”
—Environmental Protection Agency

“NOAA is an important partner agency in the Blue Carbon trinational effort, along with USEPA, USGS, Parks Canada, Conanp and Conabio. NOAA’s scientific and policy expertise are essential to this effort.”
—Commission for Environmental Cooperation