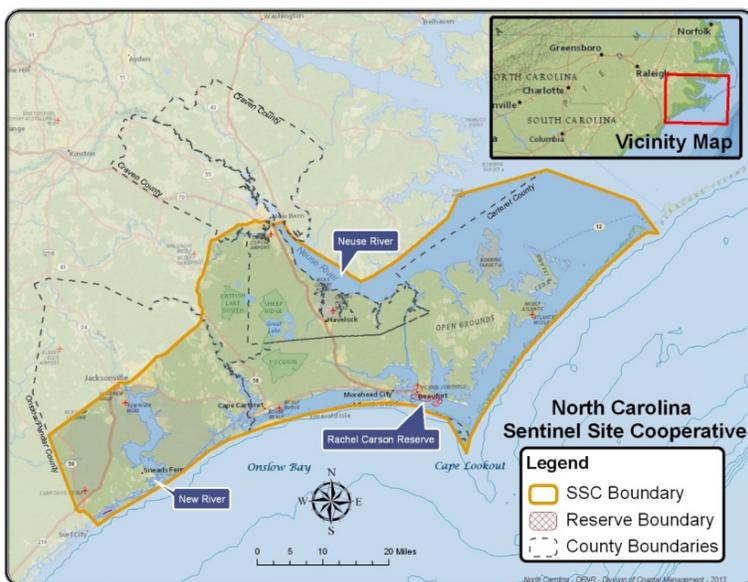




Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team: North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative Identifies Research, Monitoring Gaps

Gaps in sea level rise and inundation research and monitoring were identified during a workshop of scientists and coastal managers from central North Carolina. The workshop was organized by the North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative with support from NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART).

NOAA's Sentinel Site Program was established in 2011 to assemble a network of people, expertise, and resources for a place-based approach to address common needs. Five sentinel sites were identified across the nation, along with priority common issues related to sea level rise and coastal inundation. The North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative (NCSSC) is located on the central NC coast, near the multi-partner NOAA laboratory in Beaufort, NC (National Estuarine Research Reserve System, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Ocean Service). This location includes a high concentration of marine



science facilities and represents median conditions for the NC coast. Sea level rise is an important issue for all the South Atlantic states and Caribbean islands, so identifying and filling research and monitoring gaps at a location in NC can help inform progress towards adaptation across the entire region. The NCSSC held a workshop (12-13 March 2013) of stakeholders to identify gaps in research and monitoring pertaining to sea level rise and inundation within the site. The NCSSC falls within the geographic jurisdiction of the SECART, which supported a student to assist with pre-meeting

organization and drafting of the meeting report, helped identify participants to make sure the right people were participating, and paid for an experienced meeting facilitator to help design and lead the meeting..

Why hold a workshop?

The NCSSC aims to better understand the impacts of sea level rise on coastal ecosystems through research and monitoring, and to better translate research and monitoring results to support coastal decision making. Per its Implementation Plan, as the first step in achieving this goal, a workshop was held on sentinel site research and monitoring to share information about related work, and identify and prioritize monitoring and research gaps.

Who attended the workshop?

Participants included 37 scientists and coastal managers from universities, government agencies, and non-profits involved in generating or applying research and monitoring data related to sea-level rise and inundation in the central coast of North Carolina. Three federal agencies (including NOAA), three state

agencies, five universities, and one NGO were represented at the workshop. NOAA participants represented four of its Line Offices (NWS, NESDIS, NOS, NMFS).

What were the major outcomes from the workshop?

In addition to identification of priority gaps in sea-level research and monitoring, the workshop served as a forum for meeting other scientists working within the geography of the NCSSC. Also, scientists and coastal managers were educated on the goals and objectives of the NCSSC. Participants provided valuable feedback on the Cooperative's Implementation Plan, and most were enthusiastic about the need for this type of collaborative group. Finally, participants discussed the viability of creating a citizen science program and identified priority gaps.



What primary gaps were identified?

Seven priority gaps in sea-level research and monitoring coalesced following breakout group discussions and plenary voting: (1) the need for more water-level data, (2) development of a central clearinghouse for NCSSC data, (3) increased awareness of sea-level rise issues and impacts, (4) understanding sediment supply and dynamics and effects of land use changes on sediment dynamics, (5) improved coastal LIDAR data and bathymetry, (6) economic assessment of sea-level rise impacts on the built environment and ecosystem services, and (7) more water-quality and data-collection stations.

Can you have a copy of the report?

Yes! The report was finalized in August 2013 and is available via the NOAA Sentinel Site Program website:

http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/sentinelsites/pdf/NC_SSC_SLR_Research_Coordination_Wkshop.pdf.