NOAA Coastal Hazards Resilience Workshop: Rip Currents and Wave Runup
April 14 - 16, 2015
Suffolk, VA

NOAA will host a workshop focusing on rip currents and wave run up and is seeking interested participants.

When: April 14-16, 2015
Where: Virginia Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center (VMASC) facility at Old Dominion University in Suffolk, VA,
Topics: Rip current modeling, forecasting and messaging and wave run up forecasting and messaging
Remote connectivity: Yes
Why: Rip currents and wave run up are significant hazards to beachgoers and NOAA has been developing strategies to help mitigate problems associated with each. NOAA would like to further develop and improve these strategies with input from external partners.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be hosting the NOAA Coastal Hazards Resilience Workshop: Rip Current and Wave Runup. This workshop is jointly led by the NOAA Coastal Storms Program (CSP), National Weather Service's (NWS) Office of Science and Technology Integration (STI), NOAA North Atlantic Regional Team (NART), and Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART). The focus of the workshop will be twofold: Days 1 and 2 will be focused on rip current forecasting/modeling and communication/messaging, respectively; Day 3 will be focused primarily on wave runup. Stakeholders and partners to be included in the workshop may be different for each section, but will include NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs), lifeguards, emergency managers, media, and the research community.

The overarching goal of the workshop is to further the mission of the NWS: to provide weather, water, and climate data, forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy.

Goals for the rip current portion of the workshop include: (a) input in developing a needs assessment document and strategy for transitioning social science and messaging from CSP-funded findings in the Great Lakes to coastal beaches in the Mid-Atlantic; (b) input on a strategy for expanding the NOAA rip current forecast model from WFOs presently running the model experimentally to additional WFOs and transitioning the model to operations; and (c) identify potential enhancements to the USLA/NWS/Sea Grant rip current pilot project and Meteorological Development Lab's webform to support validation for the rip current forecasting model.

Goals of the wave runup portion of the workshop include: (a) input on a strategy for expanding wave runup applications from Northeast WFOs to Southeast WFOs and beyond; (b)

input on a strategy for expanding the forecasts beyond point-based to entire coastlines; and (c) input for developing a needs assessment document and strategy for utilizing social science to help shape communication and messaging of the wave runup threat and impacts.

To ensure we provide an equal opportunity for NWS partner participation, we are disseminating information about this opportunity to a wide audience and providing information about the agenda, goals, format, expectations, and other information.

Registration

- There is no cost to register for either in-person participants or remote-access participants.
- Registration address (you will be contacted following registration): https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JNL6hUBEhsT_2vxbZThvL5_8EWqJ4M2wEVWsiZZ2jvA/viewform?usp=send_form
- Registration deadline: March 23, 2015
- A limited block of rooms has been reserved at the nearby Marriott and may be in high demand. You may wish to check availability at this and neighboring hotels, prior to completing the registration form. Please find a list of nearby hotels below.

Selection Criteria

WFOs, lifeguards, emergency managers, media, and the research community's involvement in work related to current NWS rip current and wave runup activities. Selection will be made on a first-come first-serve basis, as only 100 seats are available at the facility. Attendees are expected to express the needs/willingness of their respective group/agency of their respective community of interest.

Format

- An agenda will be posted prior to the workshop. The workshop will take place from April 14-16, with the first two days focused on rip currents and the last on wave runup.
- Day 1 will be focused on rip current forecasting/modeling.
- Day 2 will be focused on rip current communication/messaging. A select number of attendees will participate in a half day wave runup field exercise on Day 2, while the rip current discussions continue at the workshop. Through the afternoon, small focus groups will take place to gain insight from participants on the social science aspects of rip current communication and messaging.
- Day 3 will be focused entirely on wave runup.

Ground Rules

- This is an information gathering workshop, where no decisions or consensus recommendations will be made.

What's Provided/Not Provided

GoToMeeting will be provided for portions of the workshop, for those who are unable to attend in person but wish to attend remotely.

Notice of Non-Endorsement

NOAA/NWS has a policy against showing preferential treatment for one company or its products or services over that of another company. NOAA/NWS does not endorse any particular service provider; information from non-Federal participants is being provided for educational purposes.

VMASC facility and area hotels

For venue information, please see:
http://www.vmasc.odu.edu/

Information on the location of the venue, as well as nearby hotels can be found at the following: http://www.vmasc.odu.edu/about_directions.html

Note: The Courtyard Marriott, near the VMASC, has set up a block of 45 rooms. The block will be held until March 23rd. For those interested in staying at the Courtyard Marriott, we encourage you to utilize the following link for reservations:

http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=NOAA%20Coastal%20Resielency%20Worshop%5Eorfcs%60crwcrwa%7Ccrwcrwb%6083.00%60USD%60false%604/13/15%604/17/15%603/23/15&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes

Thank you for your continued assistance in making this workshop a success.

Please share this announcement with other interested colleagues.

For further questions on registration and local arrangements, please get in touch with Nicole.Kurkowski@noaa.gov (NOAA/NWS/STI), or on other workshop details, please get in touch with Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov (NOAA/NWS).