



SOCIAL **COAST** FORUM
Coming to You in 2022

MARCH 08, 2022

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**SOUTH FLORIDA'S
SOCIAL COAST
forum**

Full Agenda

This program is brought to you by the following collaborators: *Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Florida Department of Environmental Protection), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's Office of Coastal Management, Florida International University, Florida Sea Grant, Miami-Dade County, Martin County, and St. Lucie County*



Full Agenda with Abstracts:

12:00 - 12:30 PM Welcome & Opening Networking Activity

Join us as we set the tone for the afternoon focusing on the human dimensions of coastal management- by making connections with other participants. You will be given the opportunity to network with a small number of your colleagues in Zoom breakout rooms. Please have your video and microphone enabled for this interactive session if possible.

12:30 - 1:30 PM Oral Presentations and Discussion

Select from one of the concurrent sessions.

Session A- Climate Change session

Facilitated by Emily Dark (Martin County) and Lauren Evans (Institute for Sustainable Communities)

Session B- Underserved Communities session

Facilitated by Marian Hanisko (NOAA's Office of Coastal Management) and Ana Zangroniz (Florida Sea Grant/Miami Dade)

Session A- Climate Change

Presentation 1: **Photovoice: a participatory approach to exploring the social dimensions of climate change** by **Jessica Brunacini** of the **Wells Reserve / Michigan State University**.

Abstract: If a picture is worth a thousand words, how can coastal managers harness the power of images to better understand community values and beliefs in places threatened by sea level rise? Photovoice is a qualitative method developed by participatory action researchers that can also be adapted as a community engagement tool for practitioners. It is useful for exploring community knowledge, perceptions, and aspirations, particularly with people who do not typically have a voice in planning or decision-making processes. The Photovoice process asks participants to take photographs in response to a research question or management issue. They write short narrative statements about their photographs, and then participate in a process of group-based image sharing, reflection, and knowledge building. This presentation focuses on the experience of using Photovoice as part of research investigating the role of place attachment in decision-making about climate change adaptation. Research participants, who were seasonal or full-time residents of a small coastal community located near the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in southern Maine, took photos in response to the question, "When it comes to [this place], what do you care about most?" Although the study was not explicitly presented to participants as being about climate change, concern about the impacts of sea level rise emerged as a key theme throughout the

Photovoice process. The process elicited local knowledge in the form of observations of change over time and lived experience with sea level rise impacts. Participants also expressed that they were grappling with how long they would be able to continue residing in the area given increased risk of flooding. These results suggest Photovoice can be a powerful approach to exploring the social dimensions of climate change with communities who care for and are concerned about the future of coastal places.

Presentation 2: Lessons learned in risk communication in coastal North Carolina by Sarah Spiegler of North Carolina Sea Grant.

Abstract: Underserved and underrepresented communities are often the most vulnerable to coastal hazards, indicating a growing need to better understand how NOAA can effectively serve these stakeholders and develop culturally relevant and targeted resources to reach these communities. This project, a partnership between NOAA OCM, the NOAA National Water Initiative, NOAA's Educational Partnership Program, and Sea Grant programs in North Carolina, Hawaii, and Mississippi-Alabama, focuses on communicating risk related to the long-term, chronic impacts of climate change that includes sea level rise, coastal flooding and storm surge.

In the first phase of this project, a graduate student intern in the NOAA Educational Research and Training Opportunity (NERTO) program completed a comprehensive literature review of risk communication best practices with underserved and underrepresented communities, with the support of the project partners. In the second phase of this project, the Sea Grant programs are working to engage stakeholders to compare and ground truth the finding of the academic literature review. In North Carolina, Sea Grant specialists have reviewed the literature best practices and engaged with community members in the urban city of Wilmington on the coast of North Carolina, and other smaller coastal communities in more rural areas.

This presentation will present lessons learned by the NC Sea Grant project team, which could include the challenges faced engaging both new and old stakeholders during Covid-19, the process and challenges of equitably compensating communities, being aware of changing terminology and using intentional language, internal learning and institutional barriers.

Session B- Underserved Communities

Presentation 1: Communicating Chronic Risk in Frontline Communities: Lessons Learned in the Northern Gulf of Mexico by Renee Collini of Mississippi State University and Sea Grant.

Abstract: Communicating risk from chronic stressors (e.g., sea-level rise) comes with many unique challenges. These challenges are compounded when considering underserved, frontline, and/or historically marginalized communities that are facing acute and other, more pressing chronic stressors. Modeling our work after the recently published Enhanced Engagement and Risk Communication for Underserved Communities: Research Findings and Emerging Best Practices, our team developed

plans to expand our current risk communication programming to better reach underserved communities in our region. We focused on two different communities: one an unincorporated rural area in coastal Alabama, the other a neighborhood in a larger Mississippi coast city. These communities both face high rates of vulnerability to rising seas in the forms of exacerbated storm surge and reduced stormwater drainage, have similarly high proportions of families below the poverty line, and have historically not received much state or federal investment in flood protection or mitigation. However, they are also unique and distinct communities that face a variety of challenges due to differences in geography, race, age, and population trends. Our presentation will share lessons learned after 1.5 years of applying risk communication best practices. Many of these are similar to working with any community; however, the need for flexibility, patience, and adaptability are all much greater. Additionally, timelines are longer and more creative approaches are needed for overcoming barriers such as diversifying messengers, ownership of information, and adequately compensating people for their time. This case study will be provided within the broader context of lessons learned from other Sea Grant programs undertaking similar efforts in North Carolina and Hawai'i in a panel discussion. We hope that other communication and extension specialists will benefit from our lessons learned and be better equipped to engage the full range of individuals and communities at risk to chronic coastal hazards.

Presentation 2: A place-based process for engaging community members in discussions around sea-level rise, flood hazards, and resilience by Katy Hintzen of University of Hawaii Sea Grant.

Abstract: As climate change brings increased risk of flooding to communities across the Hawaiian Islands, federal and state agencies are increasingly recognizing the need for more innovative place-based risk communication strategies. Historically risk communication has too often been disconnected from place, failed to fully and equitably engage community members, and overlooked community strength and resilience in favor of emphasizing vulnerabilities. This is particularly true for communities facing systemic discrimination including low income communities and communities of color. This project is part of a larger effort led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Water Initiative to address these issues and improve risk communication practices.

The project aims to engage the people of Mō'ili'ili (a neighborhood in urban Honolulu) in a broad discussion of how water shapes their place and community across time. This approach recognizes the risks and impact of climate change-driven flooding while also celebrating the resilience and adaptive capacity of the community.

The project will apply a place-based process for engaging community members in discussions around sea-level rise, flood hazards, and resilience in Mō'ili'ili. The project includes a series of five components (e.g. art, signage, educational programs) around the neighborhood that function as stand alone or part of a larger trail/tour experience. Components will highlight the environmental, social, and cultural aspects of water in place across time (past, present, and future) and touch on key questions including 1) What role does water play in for the place and people? 2) What is the history of flooding

in the community? 3)What adaptation options are available to address flooding today and moving into the future with climate change? 4) What community centers and organizations act as cornerstones of community resilience?

2:00 PM- 4:00 PM Skill Building Cafe Activities & Closing

Experience the skill building café. You will rotate through three breakout sessions of your choice to learn social science skills from an expert.

Skill building topics:

- **How to use photo voice to engage non-traditional stakeholders** by Jessica Brunacini (Michigan State University/Wells NERR). Learn how Photovoice – a process involving photography, narrative writing, and group discussion – can be used to engage with the knowledge, perspectives, and experiences of non-traditional stakeholders.
- **Stakeholder engagement for equitable climate resilience** by Patrick Howell (Institute of Building Technology and Safety). Discuss lessons learned in communication and stakeholder engagement from a recent IBTS study and pilot program on equitable climate resilience in U.S. cities.
- **Ecosystem services conceptual models** by Sara Mason (Duke University). Explore free online tools and databases designed to help you to incorporate ecosystem services into your current work.
- **Storytelling to communicate science** by Jessica McIntosh (Rookery Bay NERR). Understand the three elements of narrative structure and practice crafting your own story to better communicate your work to non-scientists.
- **How to host an engaging virtual meeting** by Marissa Figueroa (Rookery Bay NERR). Practice techniques to improve your virtual meetings and brainstorm ways to overcome common challenges.
- **Engaging citizen scientists** by Tiffany Troxler (Florida International University). Learn how you can start a citizen science flooding reporting program in your coastal community.
- **Visual facilitation practice** by Marian Hanisko (NOAA Office of Coastal Management). Learn how to organize information on a flip chart and draw easily-recognizable icons for terms that arise in coastal management meetings.