



NOAA Coastal Blue Carbon 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ENHANCED INCORPORATION OF COASTAL CARBON INTO SCIENCE AND POLICY

Led efforts to incorporate coastal wetlands into the 2017 U.S. National Greenhouse Gas Inventory through the work of the Coastal Wetlands Carbon Work Group (CWCWG). This fulfills a key deliverable for the White House Climate and Natural Resources Working Group's *Priority Agenda*.

Improved federal agency coordination on blue carbon science and policy under the National Ocean Council's Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology.

Led cross-agency effort to include coastal wetlands into the *U.S. Mid-Century Strategy for Achieving Deep Decarbonization by 2050*, submitted under the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC in November 2016.



Image Courtesy: NOAA

STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT COASTAL MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE



Continued to advance a Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC) blue carbon project focused on improving seagrass carbon data in North America, conducting policy analyses of how blue carbon can be incorporated into Mexico and Canada's federal policies, and developing a Verified Carbon Standard wetland conservation methodology.

Provided funds to Restore America's Estuaries to conduct projects in the Herring River and Snohomish Estuary, which will determine the efficacy of coastal management and restoration for removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and receiving carbon credits.

Co-organized a workshop with key partners in July 2016 on blue carbon ecosystems in Puerto Rico such as the Culebra Habitat Focus Area and the Jobos Bay NERR, and their relevance to regional climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

INCREASED AWARENESS OF BLUE CARBON PROGRESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Shared findings with a number of national and international parties, fostering partnerships and promoting links between NOAA and partner priorities. Highlights include:

- Presented NOAA's blue carbon activities and priorities to members of Congress at a Blue Carbon briefing in September 2016.
- Presented on blue carbon at multiple conferences including the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AERS), Society of Wetland Scientists, A Community on Ecosystem Services (ACES), International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC), and the IUCN World Conservation Congress.
- Published two papers including one on international blue carbon projects using different funding mechanisms, including UNFCCC options, in *Marine Policy*.



Image Courtesy: NOAA

NOAA COASTAL BLUE CARBON GOALS FOR 2017

- Support the completion of the first U.S. National Greenhouse Gas Inventory to include coastal wetlands.
- Work with partners to implement carbon finance projects that utilize the "Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration Methodology" and carry out a project development plan and a feasibility assessment at two project sites.
- Support a National Academies of Sciences study that will develop a national research agenda for CO₂ removal and reliable sequestration, including through coastal blue carbon.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SEE [HTTP://WWW.HABITAT.NOAA.GOV/COASTALBLUECARBON.HTML](http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/coastalbluecarbon.html)

NOAA's coastal blue carbon activities are a collaborative effort across the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS) and Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)