



# NOAA Coastal Blue Carbon

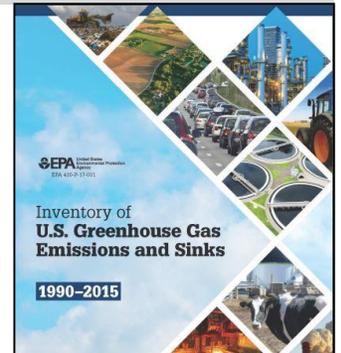
## 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### ENHANCED INCORPORATION OF COASTAL BLUE CARBON INTO SCIENCE AND POLICY

Supported the inclusion of coastal wetlands in the U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory (released in April 2017). Coastal wetlands of the contiguous U.S. were included in the inventory for the **first time**, with estimates of carbon stock change and methane emissions. The effort resulted in two articles in *Nature* and broad international interest. NOAA's Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) data played a critical role in this.

Supported the coastal blue carbon component of a National Academy of Sciences study, *Developing a Research Agenda for Carbon Dioxide Removal and Reliable Sequestration*. The blue carbon workshop report was released in December 2017 and the overall study recommendations are expected in 2018.

Finalized internal coastal blue carbon strategies for NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Research, and National Ocean Service.



### STRENGTHENED COASTAL BLUE CARBON POLICY AND RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS



Leveraged interagency relationships to advance coastal blue carbon efforts and represent NOAA's work internationally, through support of U.S. participation in International Partnership for Blue Carbon workshops (July 2017) and blue carbon events at UNFCCC COP 23 (November 2017).

Engaged in new partnerships with Restore America's Estuaries to develop carbon feasibility assessments for a mangrove restoration project (Rookery Bay, Florida) and a project assessing dredge placement options that could help restore marshes (Port Fourchon, Louisiana).

Continued to advance coastal blue carbon research through NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserves, multiple Hollings Scholars, and involvement with interagency research projects including NASA's coastal wetland carbon project and Department of Defense's Coastal/Estuarine Research Program.

### INCREASED AWARENESS OF BLUE CARBON PROGRESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Launched the NOAA Coastal Blue Carbon Community of Practice, a cross-line office effort to connect and share coastal blue carbon information across NOAA through email updates, meetings, and an invited speaker series.

Continued blue carbon engagement with updates to various committees, including the NOAA Habitat Conservation Team and the National Ocean Council's Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology.

Published multiple papers and reports covering blue carbon science, including:

- Integrating coastal blue carbon in marine protected areas
- Clarifying the blue carbon role of various coastal and marine ecosystems
- Understanding carbon content, burial, accumulation, and deposition in salt marshes

Gave presentations on coastal blue carbon science and policy at multiple conferences, including the Society of Wetland Scientists and the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation.



### NOAA COASTAL BLUE CARBON GOALS FOR 2018

- Continue to support the inclusion of coastal wetlands in the U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory.
- Expand and strengthen the NOAA Coastal Blue Carbon Community of Practice.
- Provide blue carbon recommendations to the National Ocean Council's Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology.
- Connect and coordinate with the newly-launched [Coastal Carbon Research Coordination Network](https://coastalcarbonresearch.org/).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/bluecarbon.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).