Coastal Measurements

Moderator: Scott Graves

Presenters: John McLaughlin, Jim Tait, Scott Graves
Panel Discussion: Coastal Resilience

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– panel questions/discussion points to include ... how GLOBE protocols can be used to monitor coastal environments more broadly; new tools and established techniques; how to contribute to local/regional stakeholders; expand student investigations of this important and dynamic interface between land, sea and sky; with considerations of possible future opportunities.
Coastal Measurements Discussion: Citizen Science Resources from NOAA
Coastal Measurements Discussion: Citizen Science Resources from NOAA

GLOBE Annual Meeting

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN
NOAA CITIZEN SCIENCE COORDINATOR
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

AUGUST 1, 2017
Citizen Science Can...

- **Enhance scientific research**
  - volunteers can collect data
  - volunteers provide unique perspectives and local expertise
  - human brain is good at image recognition

- **Address societal needs**
  - leverages the skills, dedication, and ingenuity of the American people
  - can facilitate diverse participation by all parts of society
  - Contributes to a conservation ethic

- **Provide hands-on learning and increase STEM literacy**
  - work on real-world problems
  - exposure to and involvement in scientific process
  - Reduces barrier to doing science
Increasing Relevance to Science Education

- A Framework for K-12 Science Education calls for students to engage in Scientific and Engineering Practices
- There is “limited but growing evidence that citizen science projects achieve participant gains in knowledge about science knowledge and process...” (1)
- Merging of citizen with Science Education “may make education more responsive to current global challenges” (2)
NOAA Education adopted a strategy to:

“Promote and coordinate citizen science opportunities”
The LiMPETS Program

〜6,000 teachers and students collect rocky intertidal and sandy beach data at National Marine Sanctuaries along the coast of California.
The scientific usefulness of a project needs to be "watered down" to get students to participate.
Research shows that children in early grades are capable of surprisingly sophisticated scientific thinking (National Research Council, 2007).
NOAA marine-related citizen science projects that can complement GLOBE measurements in:

- Marine debris
- Image recognition
- Species tracking
Marine Debris Tracker App

• Freely available app to report type, location and photos of marine debris
• Thousands of people have logged and removed over 750K pieces of litter and debris all over the world!
Old Weather

- Help digitize and recover Arctic and worldwide weather observations made by United States ships since the mid-19th century by transcribing ships' logs
- Also, work with logbooks from Arctic whaling ships
- Great way to involve language arts
Dolphin & Whale 911

- Report dead, injured or entangled marine mammals
- App only works in Southeastern US- stay tuned for expansion to additional geographic areas
- Send a photo of the marine mammal along with GPS coordinates
- Identify the kind of animal by providing an electronic field guide of marine mammals found in the Southeastern U.S.
- Help live and dead stranded marine mammals by providing you with a list of “do’s and don’ts” or tips on what to do when you find a live or dead stranded dolphin, whale, or seal.
Also at a Local Level

KACHEMAK BAY RESEARCH RESERVE

European Green Crab student graphs
2014 Progress Report

Does the low tide level affect sea stars?
EGC detection trapping events are all held at minus tides. *Asterias amurensis* sea stars are counted in a 10 meter circle around each trap. The students noticed that some trap-

Are we catching as many native crab in our traps as we have in the past?
The West Homer Elementary 4th grade monitors created this graph of bycatch crab caught throughout the history of our program. They
Coastal Measurements  Tuesday 1 August, 2017 @ 3:15 – 4:45pm

Presenter: Jim Tait

Dr. Tait received a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences, with a specialty in coastal oceanography, from the University of California at Santa Cruz. His current research focuses on the coastal impacts of large storms such as Irene and Sandy. He is co-founder and co-coordinator of the Werth Center for Coastal and Marine Studies at SCSU. He has worked with coastal communities to develop resilience in the face of rising sea level and storm intensification. One of his most cherished accomplishments is being included in the surfing movie Beyond Monster Mavericks.
Coastal Measurements

Working with fellow faculty and students on detailed beach and inland transects - surveying with Total Station.

Tuesday 1 August, 2017 @ 3:15 – 4:45pm
Coastal Measurements  

Tuesday 1 August, 2017 @ 3:15 - 4:45pm

CT Shore Profile Locations
Superstorm Sandy’s Peak Storm Surge in East Haven, Connecticut: What if it occurred after high tide instead of low tide?

Sandy’s peak storm surge arrived in East Haven, Connecticut at 9:36 p.m., October 29, 2012 at 8.93 feet. Due to the storm turning west, sending the eye into New Jersey, as well as an accelerated forward speed to approximately 45 km/h, peak storm surge arrived two hours after a spring low tide. Had it not been for this acceleration, peak storm surge would have occurred nearer to a spring high tide. This map is a depiction such a storm surge (12 feet) versus the actual storm surge that occurred (8.93 feet) relative to MSL.

This map was created by Michelle Ritchie, March 2nd, 2015.
Data were collected by James Tait, Michelle Ritchie, Alyssa Krinksy, and Ezgi Ferrand in November 2012.
Imagery: 2010 Multispectral Orthophotography, U.S. Geological Survey, (Uconn and CT DEEP)
Coastal Measurements  
Tuesday 1 August, 2017 @ 3:15 – 4:45pm

West Haven Along-shore sediment transport.
Coastal Measurements

Tuesday 1 August, 2017 @ 3:15 – 4:45pm

Presenter: Jim Tait
Coastal Measurements

Presenter: Mark Paine

Tuesday 1 August, 2017 @ 3:15 – 4:45pm
Coastal Measurements  
Tuesday 1 August, 2017 @ 3:15 – 4:45pm

Moderator: Scott Graves

The importance of ongoing environmental monitoring; the value of Citizen Science and GLOBE; How local GLOBE students can connect their data collection to the needs of a local stakeholder/municipality. Examples of Cove River, West Haven City, WH High School, SCSU ENV classes.

Transit/Theodolite/Total Station

Emery Method
Coastal Measurements

For each Profile location, a backshore reference must be established (hopefully tied to a surveyed benchmark). If no backshore reference is available, the profile can be tied to the 'hydraulic stop' which should be at or near the MLW mark.

Profile Volume is calculated in increments:
1. The main incremental volume is calculated using the horizontal increment X height above MSL.
2. The remainder incremental volume is calculated using the incremental horizontal value x the difference in height between successive stations. This gives a small "rectangle" which is then divided in half: \((DH \times 3V/2)\).
3. Summing up all incremental "main volumes" and "remainder volumes" gives a total profile volume above MSL.
Coastal Measurements

21st Annual GLOBE Meeting

Southern Connecticut State University
Coastal Measurements

Moderator: Scott Graves

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Old Field Creek
Cove River

Google Earth
Watershed and location map of Cove River Historical Site and field study site
INVASIVE SPECIES

- Non-native species – those species that are alien to the ecosystem that they have been introduced into, and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm to the environment or human health.

- Invasive species - some non-native species exhibit an aggressive growth habit and can out-compete and displace native species, and they are a serious problem in Connecticut and elsewhere.

- CT DEP – works to protect native species and the habitats in which they occur.
  - control & removal
  - assist landowners

~2010 Invasive marsh grasses dominate

~2016 Native marsh grasses returning
• Herbicide treatment:
  • Imazapyr & Glyphosate spraying

• Mulch Mowing:
  • “Marshmaster”

• Spot application of herbicide and weed pulling

• Native marsh grass planing & tending

• Continuous monitoring
SCSU Undergraduates
- ENV350 class field studies

SCSU Graduates
- SCE575 class field studies

WHHS Biology / Environmental Science
- class field studies
Ground-based photography - ground-

fall 2012

spring 2013
Panorama Views of Lower-Mid Cover River Estuary/Marsh,
Coastal Measurements

Osprey’s View of Coastal Resilience in Urban Environments
μUAS: New Tools for Monitoring Coastal Resilience

Structure from Motion (SfM): software applications for Ecological Mapping with μUAS/drones

Pix4D map/model rendering with μUAS flight path and camera locations above terrain

Dr. Scott M. Graves, Associate Professor
Department of the Environment,
Geography and Marine Sciences
Southern Connecticut State University
SfM vs. Traditional Surveying and other DEMs

It is important to understand that SfM image mosaics and 3D models are not the result of blending an stitching the original images.

SfM processing identifies and evaluates key elements (individual pixels) among and across adjacent images to generate a “point cloud” of many millions of pixels. From this point cloud, a new image mosaic map and digital surface model are generated.

SCSU East Campus field
Google Earth Image of Cove River Historical Site wetland and forest habitats.

CRHS newly regrown closed canopy forest. 50-60 yrs of forest regrowth have converted what was an open meadow with just a few fringing trees, to a fully closed canopy forest.

CRHS Estuarine salt marsh and mudflats

CRHS Fresh water marsh
µUAS & Surveying (Total Station) Research @ Cove River Historical Site - SaltMarsh

50 meter Island
lower-middle Cove River

Spring High Tide maximum inundation depth was recorded as 24cm

“50 meter Island”
lower-middle Cove River

µUAS flight August 11th 2016, Time: 1210hrs, LowTide @ NHt: 1209hrs

TOTAL STATION
Rod/Reflector/Elevation point - elevations averaged 0.76 to 0.85M above MSL

Sediment Sampling Location

Marsh Inundation Camera (GoPro Hero cameras set to time-lapse) located @ CRM_04

µUAS Nlight August 11th 2016, Time: 1218hrs, LowTide @ NHt: 1209hrs
CRHS Marsh Complex Components

A. Midmarsh Area = 17,537m²
B. Marsh Channel Area = 3,617m²
C. UpperMidMarsh Mudflats Area = 3,412m²
D. 50m Island Mudflats Area = 1,449m²
E. LowerMidMarsh Mudflats Area = 5,663m²
F. TearDrop Island Mudflats Area = 261m²

Total Exposed Mudflats Area = 14,402m²

C+D+E+F

MarshVegetation Area = 3,135m²
A-B-C-D-E-F

Marsh Channel/Marsh Ratio = 20.6%
B/A

MarshVegetation/Mudflats Ratio = 21.7%
(A-B-C-D-E-F)/(A-B)
October 31st 2015 @ CRHS, mid tide stage

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– all from Southern Connecticut State University
Department of the Environment, Geography and Marine Sciences