



# FELLOW NEWS

*News for and about the NOAA Fellows*

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## Fellows Look Ahead: 2014-2016

*Our new fellows will tackle critical coastal issues.*

In April, the NOAA Coastal Services Center matched NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship candidates with coastal zone programs in five U.S. states. Recipients of the two-year fellowships will carry out innovative projects addressing climate change adaptation, shoreline protection, and ocean planning. Puerto Rico did not have a successful match and will come back to the matching workshop in April 2015.



**Kim Hernandez**, from Duke University and nominated by North Carolina Sea Grant, was matched with Maryland's Chesapeake and Coastal Service to build an effective framework for stakeholder engagement and science translation to improve the predictability with which feedback is considered and data are used in decision-making and policy development in Maryland.



**Caitlin Pomerance**, from the University of Florida and nominated by Florida Sea Grant, was matched with the Florida Coastal Management Program to work with the Florida Coral Reef Conservation Program to implement local action strategies, engage stakeholders, and initiate an outreach and education campaign.



**Amanda Santoni**, from Duke University and nominated by North Carolina Sea Grant, was matched with the Delaware Coastal Management Program to quantify the economic value of Delaware's tidal wetlands and identify areas of specific wetland characteristics according to the ecosystem services they provide, in order to effectively campaign for wetland protection and acquisition.



**Evan Sherer**, from the College of Charleston and nominated by South Carolina Sea Grant, was matched with the New Jersey Coastal Management Program to improve the ability of coastal communities in New Jersey to reduce the risk to residents, businesses, property, and natural resources from future storm events by identifying and implementing feasible, effective, and affordable hazard mitigation strategies.



**Ian Yue**, from the University of Connecticut and nominated by Connecticut Sea Grant, was matched with the Connecticut Office of Long Island Sound Programs to develop a program of compensation for shoreline armoring under Connecticut's coastal regulatory program so that additional structures such as seawalls and revetments would be offset by the removal of existing structures, promoting a policy of no net increase in hardened shorelines.

## Guardians of the Coast: 2012-2014

*We say farewell to eight amazing coastal fellows.*



**Nicole Carlozo** worked with Maryland's Chesapeake and Coastal Service to integrate water quality and coastal resources into marine spatial planning in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays. "Nicole is one of those people who effortlessly combines her technical skills with a clear communication style to effectively translate science and coastal management challenges to any audience," says one of her mentors, Catherine McCall. "During her fellowship with Maryland, she demonstrated this approach and understanding whether she was communicating with program managers, departmental leadership, or citizen partners. There is no doubt this unique skill will serve her well during her career."



**Kelsey Gianou** worked with the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide green shorelines guidance for state and local governments in Puget Sound. "Kelsey exceeded our expectations on multiple aspects of her project," says her mentor, Joe Burcar. "Her discipline in staying on schedule along with effective communications with stakeholders allowed her to publish her guidance document early and spend the remainder of her fellowship focused on outreach. Kelsey's work helps to fill a critically important guidance need for our state's coastal management program."



**Elizabeth Felter** worked with the American Planning Association (APA) and Coastal States Organization (CSO) to assess state and local policies concerning coastal planning and coastal resource management to produce a planning advisory services report. Jim Schwab of APA says “Elizabeth has been tackling a complex project with considerable patience and grace. At the APA National Planning Conference in Atlanta at the end of April this year, she presented an excellent session on coastal zone management with well-prepared speakers who contributed a great deal.” Her other mentor, Lindsey Kraatz of CSO, says “Elizabeth is a stellar addition to CSO. She actively interacts with coastal and Great Lakes managers to educate, update, and collaborate on the use and effectiveness of the Digital Coast partnership and resources. Elizabeth is an editor of the upcoming APA Planning Advisory Services Report on Coastal Zone Management (CZM), which will be a tremendous asset in informing stakeholders on the importance of CZM programs and use of the Digital Coast.”



**Kate Fleming** worked with the Delaware Coastal Management Program to develop a marine spatial plan for Delaware’s Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay area. “Kate’s ability to reach out and connect with the local users of Delaware’s waters was critical to the information-gathering portion of Delaware’s marine spatial plan,” says her mentor Bob Scarborough. “She was always concerned about the quality and accuracy of the data, even while dealing with proprietary issues of the information gathered from the waterman. We are also very appreciative of how she stepped up and assisted the Delaware Coastal Programs with its responsibilities to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on Oceans.”



**Laura Flessner** worked with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) to integrate watershed and coastal strategies that support disaster risk reduction and adaptation solutions and enhance community resilience. “Through detailed research and analysis of the issue, Laura has helped create a strong connection between GIS-based water quality modeling and on-the-ground monitoring while also connecting key partners and stakeholders from county and local planning departments and The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin,” says her ASFPM mentor Jeff Stone. “Laura has been exemplary in her ability to contribute to The Nature Conservancy’s Coastal Resilience program. She has not only been able to set a prime example of spatial analyses that illustrate flooding impacts and risk reduction solutions in specific Puget Sound floodplains, but she has also taken leadership with our training and Coastal Resilience communication products,” adds her other mentor, Zach Ferdana of TNC.



**Robbie Greene** worked with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Coastal Resources Management Office to address climate change and associated coastal hazards in the CNMI. “The sea level rise vulnerability assessment Robbie did for CNMI far surpassed our expectations,” says one of his mentors, Dana Okano. “His dedication and knowledge helped to elevate climate change understanding throughout the CNMI government agencies. We look forward to his continued service as the climate and coastal hazards specialist with CNMI’s Division of Coastal Resources Management after his fellowship.”



**Alyssum Pohl** worked with the National Association of Counties (NACo) and National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) to help state and local coastal decision makers better utilize geospatial data to help improve the resilience of their coastal communities. “Alyssum tirelessly worked to train our members and other partners on the Digital Coast tools, and was an invaluable technical resource in the office on coastal and environmental management topics as well as GIS. Additionally, she brings a creative, positive energy to the office. We are so lucky to have her!” says Kathy Nothstine of NACo. Bill Burgess of NSGIC adds, “Alyssum immediately establishes a great rapport with others which, when combined with her technical skills, allows her to be an effective trainer. She was a great asset in our efforts to train fellows from other programs and executive agency staff on the tools and information available in Digital Coast.”



**Maggie Wenger** worked with San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to put climate change adaptation into action in San Francisco Bay. “For the past two years Maggie has been a vital member of the Adapting to Rising Tides project team and an invaluable resource to the shoreline parks and recreation staff she has been assisting with sea level rise adaptation and resilience planning,” says her mentor Wendy Goodfriend.