Going from “Potentially Useful” to “Used”: Interagency Collaboration to Enhance Access to Technical Resources for Coastal Floodplain Management

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Association of State Floodplain Managers Annual Conference – June 2014
Presentation Roadmap

• Who is conducting this project?
  ➢ Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force

• What are we trying to accomplish?
  ➢ Support state/community-level managers
  ➢ Maximize benefits of prior investments

• What are the products?
  ➢ Enhanced web-based technical assistance via Digital Coast
  ➢ Gap assessment

• How can find out more?
  ➢ Stay tuned!

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About the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force (FIFM-TF)

- Established by Water Resources Council in 1975
- After hiatus, re-established in 2008
- Co-chairs: FEMA and USACE
- 13 member agencies
- 2 advisors (CEQ, OMB)
FIFM-TF – Vision and Mission

**Vision:** The economic, environmental, and societal values of floodplains are protected and flood-prone communities are resilient and sustainable

**Mission:** Promote, support, and encourage agencies to formulate and implement programs and policies that:

- Reduce the loss of life and property caused by floods
- Protect and restore natural resources and functions of floodplains


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FIFM-TF – Work Plan and Current Efforts

- Analyze compliance with Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management
- Assess Federal flood loss data and identify potential improvements
- Assess knowledge concerning valuation of environmental services and identify/promote resolution of gaps
- Conduct study on future conditions that could inform current decisions
- Develop strategic national vision and/or update UNP
- Enhance technical assistance to coastal communities
- Enhance collaboration and research on mapping

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Collaboration to Enhance Technical Assistance

• What types of flooding-related decisions or challenges do coastal managers face?
• What do we already have in-hand that can help?
• What do we need to do differently to move these resources from “useful” to “used”? 

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Management Challenges are Many and Complex

- Sea-level rise and adaptation
- Declining Great Lakes water levels
- Pre-disaster and post-disaster recovery planning
- Land conservation and habitat restoration
- Flood hazard mitigation
- Green infrastructure – what/how
- Valuation of ecosystem services
- Risk communication
- Comprehensive planning
What is the Digital Coast?

This NOAA-sponsored website is focused on helping communities address coastal issues and has become one of the most-used resources in the coastal management community. The dynamic Digital Coast Partnership, whose members represent the website’s primary user groups, keeps the effort focused on customer needs.

Learn more in our About section, or just dive in. And please provide feedback as often as possible. Hearing from you is what makes the Digital Coast work.

Learn More about the Digital Coast 

About  Contributing Partners  Watch the Video
Develop a Shared Vision

Engage participants to formulate a common direction for activities that will enable the organization to achieve the outcomes for the target community.

Links

- Details
- Worksheet

Assess the Target Population

Identify the people being served and define their needs for information, skills, technology, and tools.

Links

- Details
- Worksheet
- PowerPoint Template
Draft “How To” Topics

• How do I identify and communicate my community’s flood risk?

• How do I identify and prioritize potential coastal flood risk-reduction measures?

• How do I implement coastal flood risk-reduction measures?

• How can green infrastructure be used to manage my community’s coastal flood risk?
Identify and Prioritize Risk-Reduction Measures

**Potential steps:**

1) Determine risk-reduction objectives
2) Plan for and conduct stakeholder engagement
3) Explore range of techniques
4) Evaluate techniques against objectives
5) Examine secondary benefits
6) Examine direct and indirect costs
7) Consider adaptive management potential
8) Evaluate and rank alternatives
9) Communicate the results
Exploring Available Resources

- Peer-reviewed information
- Demonstrated relevance and/or successful application
- Easily understood by practitioners
- Readily available – online and in public domain
- Current and/or updated regularly
- Relevant to community scale
- Transferable across geographies
Step 3: Explore Range of Techniques

Including but not limited to:

• Policy (including ordinances, codes)
• Elevation, acquisition, relocation
• Structural measures
• Green infrastructure (natural / nature-based)
• Hybrid green/gray
Where do gaps remain in technical assistance?

Inside the Mind of a Coastal Manager
(According to NOAA’s Coastal Management Survey)

**Economic data and science.** I’d like NOAA to help me do a better job of integrating science and economic data into my community’s decision-making process. Gaining a better understanding of how to communicate risk would also be helpful.

**Our future is out there.** Ocean planning and living shorelines are two topics I think my organization will spend more time addressing in the near future.

**Weird weather impacts.** Call it climate change, weird weather, coastal hazards, or whatever—we must address this topic. Now.

**Data. More data.** We need more information, from wetland loss trends to population figures and marine mammal migration paths. We need imagery, elevation, land cover, and bathymetry data. And it all needs to be GIS friendly, since this software continues to be the tool we use to help us “connect the dots,” so to speak.

Triennial Coastal Management Customer Survey: https://www.csc.noaa.gov/survey/
Want more info? Want to get involved?

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