



NOAA COASTAL BLUE CARBON ACTIVITIES 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SUPPORTED KEY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE DEVELOPMENTS

During 2015, NOAA supported the establishment of a U.S. Coastal Wetlands Carbon Work Group (CWCWG) with the goal of incorporating coastal wetlands into the U.S. National Greenhouse Gas Inventory in response to the action in the Climate and Natural Resources Working Group's *Priority Agenda*.

NOAA also supported the formation of the National Blue Carbon Network (BCN) to coordinate and support actions that lead to the advancement of blue carbon objectives including demonstration projects.



SHARED BLUE CARBON FINDINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES



NOAA shared its findings to a number of national and international parties. The group:

- Presented to Gulf of Mexico Alliance's (GOMA) Coordination Team and Business Advisory Council, as well as at six scientific conferences including the American Geophysical Union.
- Organized a session at the United Nations Conference of the Parties in December 2014.
- Wrote a paper summarizing NOAA and partner blue carbon efforts to be published in FY16 in a special issue of the journal *Coastal Management*.
- Developed international case studies of countries using UNFCCC mechanisms and other forms of carbon financing to implement blue carbon projects (Wylie et. al. 2016).
- Developed a *Science on a Sphere* blue carbon story about the importance of coastal blue carbon habitats for climate mitigation and adaptation.

SUPPORTED NOAA AND PARTNER EFFORTS TO ADVANCE SCIENCE AND POLICY

In 2015, NOAA helped lead a Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC) blue carbon project that is focused on expanding seagrass mapping and carbon data in North America, completing policy analyses of where blue carbon can be incorporated into Mexico and Canada's federal policies, and mapping of approaches to a conservation methodology.

NOAA also funded the Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) Tampa Bay Landscape Assessment to model how effective coastal management and restoration projects in the Tampa Bay area can increase removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere, while also providing additional ecosystem benefits

Finally, NOAA supported coastal carbon cycle science via a project examining belowground marsh productivity and salt marsh carbon fluxes in North Carolina to help support carbon sequestration and landscape carbon models.



NOAA COASTAL BLUE CARBON GOALS FOR 2016

- Work with partners to complete the first U.S. National Greenhouse Gas Inventory to include coastal wetlands.
- Work with partners to identify potential pilot project sites for carbon finance projects that utilize the "Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration Methodology" and carry out at least one feasibility assessment.
- Continue socializing blue carbon concepts and opportunities at conferences, meetings, and workshops.
- Seek to incorporate a post-restoration carbon monitoring component into one tidal wetland restoration project.

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