



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Social Science Community Newsletter

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"Sharing knowledge for better practices".

NOAA's First Social Science Committee

On June 26th 2014, the Social Science Committee came into existence. With the goal of serving NOAA to better understand and serve society's needs, the committee will serve as an advisory board to guide operations and decisions relating to social science methods, data collection, and strategy. The Committee is integrated by two to three representatives from each line office.

Advancing Social Science across NOAA David Yoskowitz joins the team as the new Chief Economist



Born in California, but a Texas resident for the past several years, David Yoskowitz is joining the Social Science Team at PPI as the Chief Economist to lead current efforts in coordinating Social Science across the agency. David comes from the Harte Research Institute (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where he is the Endowed Chair for Socio-Economics. HRI is a very unique environment that fosters multidisciplinary efforts to understand the connections between conservation and policy. In Dave's own words, "it is this unique mix of biophysical, social and policy worlds that informs my work and creates the opportunities to design solutions that ensure long-term societal wellbeing".

David's work has examined the socio-economic implications of resource utilization in the Gulf of Mexico, with a special focus on ecosystem services and human wellbeing. He has extensive field experience in Mexico, Belize, El Salvador and Nicaragua where he conducted multiple research projects on micro-finance and its impacts on household wellbeing. David has also

collaborated with NOAA in developing an ecosystem services valuation framework for restoration, worked closely with NOAA colleagues through the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, and participated in efforts linking ecosystem services to the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification System (CMECS).

David sees his new job as the Chief Economist as a great opportunity to influence how the NOAA community meets its societal goals and responsibilities. In this very special time, when the value of social science to steward and protect our resources is unquestionable, social scientists must harness this enthusiasm to secure meaningful and sustainable policies that protect our communities into the future. As David says, "I'm lucky to be starting at a time when there is great momentum building for social science to play an increasingly integral role at NOAA and other science agencies".



Among the many initiatives that David will help lead are: measuring and communicating NOAA's value to society; enhancing marine and coastal management with effective social science work; and measuring and communicating the socio-economic impacts of environmental disasters and hazards. Some of these are already in motion with the creation of the first NOAA Social Science Committee.

For a list of David's publications click [here](#).

Recent publications in Social Science

Climate Adaptation and Mitigation -Weather Ready Nation

[*Warm Temperature Streaks in the US Temperature Record: What are the Chances?](#)

Journal of Geophysical Research - Atmospheres ~ Craigmille, P.F., P. Guttorp, R. Lund, R.L. Smith, P.W. Thorne, and D. Arndt .

[*Visualizing seasonal and inter-annual relationships between hydrology, climate, and water level fluctuations on the earth's largest lakes](#)

Journal of Great Lakes Research ~ Anne Clites, Joeseeph Smith, Timothy S. Hunter and Andrew D. Gronewold.

[*Assessing Real-Time Tornado Information Disseminated through NWS Products](#)

Weather Forecasting ~ Scott F. Blair and Jared W. Leighton (NWS).



The Value of Collaboration: Unseen crab mortality in Alaskan Groundfish fisheries.

Award winning research portrayed in NMFS website underlines the value of collaboration with fishermen.

"We do all our research cooperatively with fishermen, on their vessels and using the same kind of gear they use". "In many ways they're the experts, and I learn a lot from them." Craig Rose, biologist with NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

More on this effort [here](#).

News & Opportunities

Graduate conference on Risk and Precarity. Submissions 8/15. [Here](#).

The Interdisciplinary Research in Hazards and Disasters (SEES) is seeking research projects. Deadline 9/26. [Here](#).

Research Collaborators for Collaborative SESYNC Postdocs. Deadline 9/15. [Here](#).

16th Annual BIOECON Conference Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Sustainability. Registration Closes 8/20. [Here](#).

Understanding Society and Natural Resources: Forging New Strands of Integration Across the Social Sciences. Manfredo et al. 2014. Available for free access and download [here](#).

Healthy Oceans— Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies

[*A Spatially Distinct History of the Development of California Groundfish Fisheries](#)

PLOS ONE ~ Rebecca Miller et al.

[*Measuring the Economic Value of Increased Precision in Scientific Estimates of Marine Mammal Abundance and Bycatch: Harbor Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* in the Northeast U.S. Gill-Net Fishery](#)

North American Journal of Fisheries Management ~ Kathryn Bisack (NEFSC) and Gisele Magnusson.

[*Environmental Awareness and Public Support for Protecting and Restoring Puget Sound](#)

Environmental Management ~ Thomas G. Safford, Karma C. Norman, Megan Henly, Katherine E. Mills, and Phillip S. Levin.

[*Port level fishing dynamics: assessing changes in the distribution of fishing activity over time](#)

Marine Policy ~ Cameron Speir (NMFS/SWFC), Caroline Pomeroy (OAR Cal. SG) and Jon G. Sutinen.

[*Determining the willingness to pay for ecosystem service restoration in a degraded coastal watershed: A ninth grade investigation](#)

Ecological Economics ~ Nicosia et al.

[*Connecting international priorities with human wellbeing in low-income regions: lessons from hawksbill turtle conservation in El Salvador](#)

Local Environment ~ Michael J. Liles, Markus J. Peterson, Yvonna S. Lincoln, Jeffrey A. Seminoff, Alexander R. Gaos and Tarla Rai Peterson.