

Panel 2: Regional/Place-Based Efforts: Eileen Shea

- Why do you do things at a regional level? Are trying to help people who live in a particular place to address a problem and establish partnerships to do this
- idea of trust: comes from sustained interaction, takes awhile to build it and takes awhile to keep it
- how does information flow from one party to another
- want to acknowledge that Sea Grant extension agencies are part of the institutional capacity that NOAA has to offer
- Not just climate and not just societal impacts; there is a combined climate-society system but the bottom line is that early and continuous engagement with partners is essential
- need organized communication, climate literacy: need to frame the demand in facilitating that dialogue
- time and space scales: depend on customers, some customers want both; the real question is what decision are they trying to make?
- some of you went to meeting in Bar Harbor, Maine; consistently referred to “reports” and “assessments” although it is the “process” that is important
- map that shows important NOAA regional partnerships now shows Sea Grant, Estuarine Reserves, Sanctuaries
- map does not necessarily mean that you have an integrated program; but shows where you have institutional capabilities
- need research and dialogue to assess what the vulnerabilities are and then develop capacities and strategies from there
- regional “hubs” or regional “cores”-where you map your partners to the tasks that need to be done
- prototype pathway for NOAA Regional Climate Information Services-the pathway goes both ways
- how do you bring existing players into an integrated program?
- NIDIS is a “problem-focused” program at the regional levels
- said all do good work individually, but how do you work together? Need an integrated framework, PaCIS came out of this which has a large international component; this is a model for thinking about regional hubs
- a need for articulating an integrated version of what we are doing at a regional level—can this model help us identify and fill gaps?
- things that regional partners do will be integrated into the model
- looking for a database of regional experiences and lessons learned; particular with adaptation
- when tried to write a chapter on adaptation, could not find enough peer-reviewed literature; this needs to change and need to start documenting adaptation work

Jim Murray, Panelist:

- map that Eileen showed is very important
- challenge is to find a mechanism that enables us to integrate all of these players for an effective climate services effort
- report done a year ago by SAB about education and extension and one of the recommendations was to develop a leadership for NOAA’s core engagement activities,

NOAA executive committee on engagement (committees include extension, regional collaboration teams, communications, education); concept is national leadership and coordination

- planning and priority setting needs to happen at the regional level

Doug Kluck, Panelist:

- sort of represent the field, works for Central Region weather service
- asking to comment more and more on climate change at every event they attend
- also getting ask to partner with various regional and local groups
- ecosystem recovery for the Missouri River is one of the groups belong to and what they want most is perspective on climate change
- no doubt that NGOs are ahead of NOAA, at least in the central region

Chet Ropelewski, panelist:

- Be careful, because very often what the user “wants” may not be what they need, what they need may be related to climate and if it is we may not be able to provide it. (If Climate information is involved in meeting the user needs it is important to identify who will assume responsibility for providing it in operational framework at the outset) The analysis of wants, needs, and capabilities can involve large transaction costs.
- huge transaction cost and takes a lot of time and money so need to be very clear early on who will be responsible for operational part; relationships need to be sustained early on

Caitlin Simpson:

- as demands are exploding, how do we define the roles and what are the gaps?
- have excellent R&D and excellent operational activity but how do we bridge between them and how do we structure and implement this activity so it makes sense

Marjorie McGuirk:

- state climatologists receive almost no funding and they engage with stakeholders at the county level and are at liberty to influence policy; can we afford not to make them part of the National Climate Service?

External Panelists

1. Jeff Payne, NOAA Coastal Services Center:

- have eight regional collaboration teams within NOAA and have a number of goals (listed in presentation)
- improving stakeholder relations and support is a newer effort
- regional collaboration teams are cross line offices
- sustainability with stakeholders (trust and credibility), not necessarily productive in the long-term for “one-off” approach
- what is going to make a difference in decision-making ability? Need to understand very clearly what the problems and decision parameters are
- training and capacity building across NOAA—need to get all these capacities to talk to each other

- getting line offices together-realized that they served many of the same organizations but also learned the fundamentals of what each other do
- comprehending regional diversity is important and understanding how you are a part of a region or locality
- need first discussion to be centered around “what do you do” not “what do you need”
- recognize that context matters
- NOAA should not “breeze in” and “breeze out”
- don’t put people where there is a co-location advantage, put resources and personnel where your mouth is
- main thing that has been being done with respect to engagement is workshops
- 4 categories of partnership dimensions
- rubric on what constitute smart ways of conducting engagement not yet available yet
- mini-grant opportunities to push money to regional teams to undertake these engagement activities
- pilot strategies tend to be one-offs, how do we mainstream?

2. Kevin Robbins, Director, Southern RCC:

- six regional climate centers and provide services to all 50 states and Puerto Rico
- focusing on three different program areas: data management, climate service, and applied research and development
- data management include historical archives
- custom interfaces to these data; some used internally and some provided to our partners
- data is then used to provide climate services
- most frequently get calls for weather data
- interact with customers to help guide them to what they need
- educating people on what information is available
- contract-based organization working through NESDIS which specifies data management and climate services components
- research that is done at the centers is very applied and driven by demands in the region
- most of the research is from external funding (USDA, USGS, Weather Service, TRACS, etc.)
- perform research as part of affiliation with universities
- 24/7 availability of data
- ACIS is data management system that is used and available at all RCCs; a distributed network system
- synchronize between all RCCs and NCDCs to make sure real-time data is synchronized
- defining characteristic of RCC is “operational”
- xmACIS provides services to weather service to answer inquiries they get
- scACIS is a new effort being developed with state climatologists so that they can have same, synchronized data and provide consistent data across regions
- agACIS used for frost freeze, growing models, etc.
- helping NPS and USFS manage their data and provide products based on this data
- THREADEX designed for the National Weather Service to provide data for climate extremes, also provided to the Weather Channel
- has been a lot of questions with regard to RCCs and RISAs; there are some overlaps with respect to research but RCC research is more applied research and RISAs are more

problem-focused; RCCs and RISAs need to interact to take products developed under RISA and put them in operational contexts under the RCCs and hand off needs to be supported at a management and programmatic level

3. Brad Udall, Colorado University, Western Water Assessment:

- act of planning is important; not the plans
- need efforts based at universities
- need to deal with both climate change and climate variability at the same time even when users do not care about the distinction between weather and climate
- to solve the “map problem” (gaps), need to solve the funding problem
- RISAs are at a break point; either solve the gap in RISAs or they see cuts in funding
- RISAs mentioned in Waxman-Markey legislation but need to step up and figure out how to fund adequately

Discussion

Margaret Hiza Redsteer, Review Team:

- did not mention tribal lands or tribal governments at all and they often exist in extreme environments where there is a lack of observational capacity

Jeanine Jones, Review Team:

- in much of the West, it's about the fish which is an area under NOAA's jurisdiction and there needs to be a linkage in this area between the different types of NOAA

Mike Crimmins, Review Team:

- question to Jeff about the regional collaboration program, is that another level of coordination?

Jeff, answer: yes, regional collaboration has had a good effect of bringing together the line offices and are getting better at understanding what stakeholders care about

Mike : so how much time before passing off?

Jeff: need to be more of an intermediary to establish the necessary collaborations

Mike: seems like efforts on the ground could easily get consumed by climate services

Jeff: There are 18-19 people on each regional team and they do a lot of work

Tony Busalacchi, Climate Working Group: given regional place-based focus, how does research feed back to GFDL, etc.?

Eileen Shea: absolutely right, but cannot find that yet, just little examples but hoping to get help thinking that through

Steve Running, Review Team:

- with place-based focus, critical component are the state climate offices; heads Montana's office which has no staff or no funding; how can NOAA ensure that state climate offices are ready to receive all of these new products?

Jake Rice, Review Team:

- It's clear that integrated assessment needs to be a cornerstone of climate service entity, there is an integrated assessment for ecosystems and it is incredibly taxing to have two integrated assessments; there is a best practice guide for doing integrated assessments; not hearing people express awareness of things that already exist; transaction costs are huge for stakeholder interaction so how do you budget something like that and how do you manage the expectations of the people once you get them engaged and how do you avoid developing a product so tailor-made that you cannot transfer it (thereby losing the benefit of a lot of the investment)

Eileen:

- there is an institutional need that are part of the integrated assessment process; part of the sustained collaboration is how do we get each party to feel some kind of responsibility; may have check points so that regions can try products developed from other regions but this has not yet been done; how do we have an institutional structure for the public good but also working with the private sector that is highly specializing these products

Sharlene Leurig, Review Team:

- how are the NOAA programs collecting information on their users and how the user groups might be changing and how are they being reported back to CSD; who is asking for info on climate and variability and who is asking for information on climate change

Jeanine Jones, Review Team:

- need federal agencies to strategize among themselves, comparing requests for information; disagree with comment on assessments; to her they are almost useless; Eileen said she could not find any adaptation literature although there is a ton of "gray" literature on this

Tony Janetos, Review Team:

- what is the mechanism for putting the "dots on the map"? wants to respond to Jeanine's comments; many other ways to do assessments that are of more utility to a large variety of user communities; they can be ignored but no one can argue that they have not been influential; it is not just the process but also the results that need to be useful to someone for some purpose

Leigh Welling, Review Team:

- this will require a much higher of collaboration than we've seen so far; engagement from engaging stakeholders to engaging partners; understanding stakeholder needs to understanding each other's capacities; just starting to see what regional engagements looks like but still looks very conceptual and need to see detailed case studies; DOI are also articulating now what things look like on the ground; recognizing the need to build additional capacities; need to show that we can cooperate at a higher level; thinks the

database of case studies is a great idea but would like to see a more detailed map within a region and lay out the jurisdictions and capacities that exist and lay out responsibilities

Tony Busalacchi:

- would like to ask how many joint call for proposals with other agencies have gone out

Chet Koblinsky, Climate Goal Team Lead:

- wants to ask panel to consider the role of agencies in universities (student development, curriculum development, etc.)

Molly MaCauley, Review Team:

- has yet to hear an example of a product, what levels of uncertainty best characterize it, etc.;
- if people don't see a difference between weather and climate than why not just stick with the weather service?