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Strategies for Adaptation to Climate Change: The Nature Conservancy's Approach in New England

Kate Killerlain Morrison, The Nature Conservancy, Massachusetts Chapter

There are currently no widely accepted strategies to identify, plan, manage or monitor conservation areas on the basis of their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, and this knowledge gap is even broader in the nearshore and marine environment. The Nature Conservancy's (TNC's) conservation approach and its unparalleled global array of action sites offer a platform on which to develop and test climate-adaptive conservation strategies. One of three goals of The Nature Conservancy's Climate Change Initiative is to "Help Natural Areas Adapt to the Impact of Climate Change." Under the auspices of TNC's Global Marine Initiative, marine program staff have been moving forward in Rhode Island, New York, and Massachusetts to plan and test coastal adaptation strategies. This presentation will present an overview of TNC's efforts in these three states, working toward better positioning conservation organizations and partners to anticipate and respond adaptively to the impacts of climate change. Panelists: Kate Killerlain Morrison, Massachusetts Chapter; Caroly Shumway, Rhode Island Chapter; Sarah Newkirk, Long Island Chapter.

Kate Killerlain Morrison
The Nature Conservancy
Massachusetts Chapter
205 Portland Street
Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
kkmorrison@tnc.org