

21st International Conference of The Coastal Society

Linking Science, Policy and Management; Case Studies and Lessons Learned

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Every day, individuals in government agencies, private businesses, and non-profit organizations make decisions that affect the health of coastal resources. Despite their essential role in coastal management, these decision makers may not have convenient, timely access to the most current scientific information and tools to help inform their decisions. Moreover, these individuals are often not involved in the generation of scientific information and tools. To bridge these gaps between science, policy and management, NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve system has developed a nationwide education program called the Coastal Training Program. This program seeks to overcome disciplinary, institutional, and cultural barriers to foster more effective stewardship of coastal resources. This presentation will offer case studies from the Coastal Training Program and provide a discussion of best practices to link science, policy, and management activities.

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