



# FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the NOAA Fellows

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## FOCUS ON FELLOWS KELSEY GIANOU



Fellow Kelsey Gianou was born and raised in the beautiful little river city of Red Wing, Minnesota, a place known for its pottery and shoes. Her family lived on a handful of acres just outside of town where she had the freedom to run, play, raise chickens, and ride horses. She credits her family with her interest in science and coastal management. Both of

her parents were biology majors in college and were the foundation of her love for science. As for the coast, Kelsey says, “A few trips to visit my grandparents on the gulf coast of Florida were all it took for me to fall in love with the ocean and everything in it.”

She attended college at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where she majored in biology and minored in chemistry. Her first three years were spent in Wisconsin, learning biology and chemistry basics and aquatic ecology. She spent her senior year at Deakin University in Australia. The year living in a coastal community opened her eyes to the challenges and opportunities of living, working, and playing near the coast. It was here that her research focus started to shift toward science communication and the links between science, policy, and management.

Kelsey went on to Oregon State University to earn her master’s in marine resource management. There, she learned about the fellowship from Oregon Sea Grant and thought it would be a fitting next step.

For her fellowship, Kelsey is working with the Washington State Department of Ecology’s Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program. The goal of her project is to provide guidance on soft shoreline stabilization planning and implementation for local jurisdictions. One of the main outcomes of her project is for local planners and regulators to have an increased understanding

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*Kelsey, her husband Jason, and golden retriever Sampson at Larson Lake near their home*

of “soft stabilization” and how it can be used in shoreline management. Once the guidance is completed, Kelsey will help lead trainings on soft shorelines.

Her tasks have included writing a guidance document, presenting her project to various audiences, communicating with individuals involved with soft shorelines, participating on the Green Shorelines Steering Committee, and staying connected with soft shoreline-related efforts around Puget Sound. Her work has also involved understanding and communicating policies and standards in the Washington Administrative Code, developing brief example case studies, and creating and implementing a peer-review process for her guidance document.

Kelsey is enjoying every moment of her fellowship. “There are so many gratifying aspects of my work! I really like the variety of people that I interact with.

Soft shoreline stabilization is a hot topic in Puget Sound right now, and there is so much energy and good intention from every stakeholder group that it keeps me energized,” says Kelsey. She also enjoys the ferry rides and her time in the “field” participating in trainings and workshops, visiting soft shoreline sites, talking with shoreline property owners, and attending meetings.

When not at her fellowship, Kelsey enjoys spending time with her husband Jason and their dog Sampson. They have been able to enjoy the great parks in the area and have had a fantastic time taking West Coast swing dance lessons.

After the fellowship, Kelsey hopes to continue a career in coastal or environmental management. “I love the challenges and opportunities that come with coastal communities and issues,” says Kelsey. 



## FOCUS ON FELLOWS NICOLE CARLOZO

Fellow Nicole Carlozo grew up in Fallston, Maryland, surrounded by countryside and farmland. This countryside home and her high school’s substantial green space instilled in her an appreciation for open space and the outdoors. Her love for the coast grew out of the summers she and her four siblings spent boating and picking blue crabs on the Chesapeake Bay.

When it came time for college, Nicole double majored in biology and English at St. Mary’s College of Maryland. Her main focus was on ecology and writing. It was there that she read “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry,” a poem by Walt Whitman. His words about the ebb and flow of the tides, the rising and setting of the sun, and the repetitiveness present in nature resonated with her. She credits

*Nicole exploring Sandy Point State Park at the western end of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in Anne Arundel County, Maryland*



Whitman for ultimately pushing her away from hard science and toward a field that intertwines science, the environment, and people. That goal led her to pursue a master's in coastal environmental management at Duke.

While at Duke, she learned about the fellowship program. She was struck with the timeliness of the projects—the ability to produce something that would be used immediately—and the opportunity to work on a project that combined so many of her interests.

For her fellowship, Nicole is working with the Maryland Chesapeake and Coastal Service to integrate water quality and coastal resources into marine spatial planning in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays. The project has three components: data collection and analysis, climate change integration, and planning recommendations. She is responsible for identifying high priority sites for natural-filter best management practices. Once

these sites are identified, she will examine how their filtering functions may be impacted by climate change, and she will use the results in Maryland's targeting, implementation, and funding decisions.

She is also investigating the ability of oysters to act as natural filters, first by identifying oyster aquaculture sites and then by examining their benefits to water quality. She plans to hold a participatory GIS workshop to collect recreational-use data in the Chesapeake Bay. These data will inform decisions about land acquisition and planning, access, and aquaculture expansion.

Nicole's final product will consist of GIS layers that identify suitable sites for natural filter projects, recreational-use data from a pilot project in the Choptank River to inform aquaculture expansion, and a means of assimilating the new data and information into coastal state management or design

plans. In addition, she will create a process for incorporating climate change and water quality into restoration decisions.

The fellowship has allowed Nicole to work with a variety of state and federal agencies and increase her understanding of coastal policy and management at the state level. "The fellowship has provided me with insight on how state coastal management works, including the obstacles inherent within the field. I've also expanded my professional network and had the opportunity to better understand where my skill sets fit into the coastal management field," says Nicole.

When not at work, Nicole enjoys reading, writing, baking, biking, spending time with family and friends, and spoiling her cat. She's also an alumni blogger for Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment. You can find her blog "Flying Fish" at <http://blogs.nicholas.duke.edu/nicolecarlozo>.

In the future, Nicole would like to continue working on coastal ecology and environmental topics. She hopes to stay close to home on the East Coast, somewhere between Maryland and the Carolinas but would be willing to adventure to a new place for the right opportunity. "I grew up on the Chesapeake Bay, and I feel privileged that I'm able to restore a watershed that I love. Sense of place is very important to me," says Nicole. *(f)*

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## FOCUS ON THE COASTAL FELLOWSHIP: 2014 STATE PROJECTS SELECTED

Six projects have been selected for the 2014-2016 Coastal Management Fellowship. Below is a summary of each of these projects for the coming year. Recruiting efforts are well underway, but we need your help to spread the word to eligible fellowship applicants. Remember that applications should be submitted to area Sea Grant directors and are due no later than January 24, 2014.

**Host Agency:** Connecticut Office of Long Island Sound Programs

**Location:** Hartford, Connecticut

**Project Goal:** Develop a program of compensation for shoreline armoring under Connecticut's coastal regulatory program so that additional structures such as seawalls and revetments would be offset by the removal of existing structures, promoting a policy of no-net-increase in hardened shorelines.

**Host Agency:** Delaware Coastal Management Program

**Location:** Dover, Delaware

**Project Goal:** Quantify the economic value of Delaware's tidal wetlands and identify areas of specific wetland characteristics based on the ecosystem services they provide, in order to effectively campaign for wetland protection and acquisition.

**Host Agency:** Florida Coastal Office

**Location:** Miami, Florida

**Project Goal:** Work with the Florida Coral Reef Conservation Program to implement local action strategies, engage stakeholders, and initiate an outreach and education campaign.

**Host Agency:** Maryland's Chesapeake and Coastal Service

**Location:** Annapolis, Maryland

**Project Goal:** Build an effective framework for stakeholder engagement and science translation to improve the predictability with which feedback is considered and data are used in decision-making and policy development in Maryland.

**Host Agency:** New Jersey Coastal Management Program

**Location:** Trenton, New Jersey

**Project Goal:** Improve the ability of coastal communities in New Jersey to reduce the risk to residents, businesses, property, and natural resources from future storm events by identifying and implementing feasible, effective, and affordable hazard mitigation strategies.

**Host Agency:** Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program

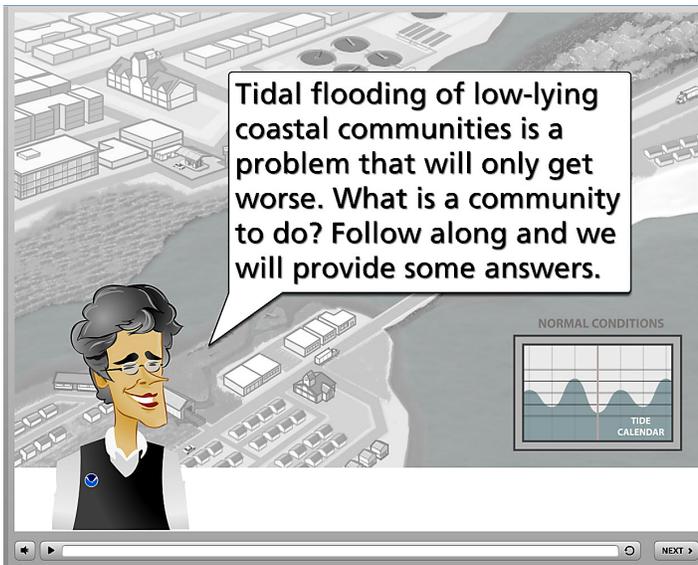
**Location:** San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Project Goal:** Design and create an online self-assessment and solutions tool to help coastal communities better understand the risk and impacts associated with coastal hazards, including climate change, and pilot this tool in coastal communities in Puerto Rico.

For more information on the 2014 state projects, please visit the fellowship website at [www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/stateprojects.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/stateprojects.html) or contact the fellowship coordinator at [csc.fellowships@noaa.gov](mailto:csc.fellowships@noaa.gov). 

# FOCUS ON THE CENTER

## ANIMATION LETS VIEWERS “SEE” TIDAL FLOODING



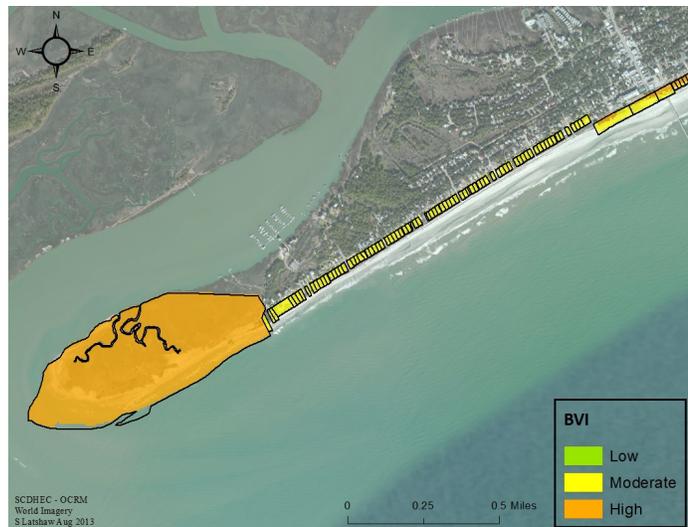
The Center recently produced an animated video to help users visualize the impacts of tidal flooding, understand the aggravating factors, and learn ways to lessen those impacts within their coastal communities. Communities can consider many adaptation strategies, as shown in the animation, including shoreline stabilization and restoring green space. Also highlighted are specific strategies that are being adopted by several real-life communities to lessen their flood-related problems. You can view the video at [www.csc.noaa.gov/tidalfloodingvis.](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/tidalfloodingvis.)

# WHAT'S NEW ON THE DIGITAL COAST?

## NEW DIGITAL COAST STORY FROM THE FIELD FOCUSES ON FELLOWSHIP PROJECT

The project work of 2011-2013 South Carolina Fellow Sarah Latshaw is now featured on the Digital Coast. Over the past two decades, South Carolina's eight coastal counties have experienced rapid growth and coastal erosion. The state's Beachfront Vulnerability Index (BVI), created as a part of Latshaw's project, is being used to help the state see where it is most vulnerable. She used coastal lidar data from the Digital Coast to help develop the BVI. For more information, visit [www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/stories/vulnerability-index](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/stories/vulnerability-index).

Would you like to see your fellowship project featured as a Digital Coast Story from the Field? We would love to work with you to get it posted. Contact [Margaret.Allen@noaa.gov](mailto:Margaret.Allen@noaa.gov) to get started.



*Beachfront Vulnerability Index (BVI) for the southwestern end of Folly Beach, South Carolina*

NOAA Coastal Services Center  
2234 South Hobson Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29405-2413



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### JANUARY

**26 to 29: Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference**  
Mobile, Alabama  
<http://gulfofmexicoconference.org>

### FEBRUARY

**13 to 15: 13th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference**  
Denver, Colorado  
[www.newpartners.org](http://www.newpartners.org)

**18 to 20: Social Coast Forum**  
Charleston, South Carolina  
[www.csc.noaa.gov/socialcoastforum](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/socialcoastforum)

**23 to 28: 2014 Ocean Sciences Meeting**  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
[www.sgmeet.com/osm2014/default.asp](http://www.sgmeet.com/osm2014/default.asp)

**24 to 26: World Ocean Summit 2014**  
San Francisco, California  
[www.economistconferences.asia/event/world-ocean-summit-2014](http://www.economistconferences.asia/event/world-ocean-summit-2014)

**25 to 27: 2014 Coastal Summit**  
Washington, DC  
[www.asbpa.org/conferences/conferences.htm](http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conferences.htm)

## NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TRAINING

### JANUARY

#### On-Site:

**7 to 8:** Coastal Inundation Mapping  
Bethpage, New York

**7 to 8:** Coastal Restoration Project Design and Evaluation  
Port St. Joe, Florida

**9 to 10:** Coastal Restoration Project Design and Evaluation  
Mobile, Alabama

**14 to 16:** Climate Adaptation for Coastal Communities  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**22 to 23:** Navigating in Rough Seas  
Watsonville, California

**27 to 28:** Coastal Inundation Mapping  
New Orleans, Louisiana

### FEBRUARY

#### On-Site:

**3 to 4:** Managing Visitor Use  
Homer, Alaska

**11 to 12:** Navigating in Rough Seas  
Moss Point, Mississippi

**18 to 19:** Project Design and Evaluation  
Melbourne, Florida

**25 to 26:** Navigating in Rough Seas  
Charleston, South Carolina

**25 to 27:** Climate Adaptation for Coastal Communities  
Virginia

**26 to 27:** Planning for Meaningful Evaluation  
Waquoit, Massachusetts

### MARCH

#### Online:

**12:** Fostering Behavior Change for Coastal Management: An Introduction to Community-Based Social Marketing

#### On-Site:

**12 to 13:** Navigating in Rough Seas  
East Point, Florida

**25 to 26:** Managing Visitor Use  
Wells, Maine

For more information on virtual and site-specific trainings, visit [www.csc.noaa.gov/training](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/training).

## CREDITS AND INFORMATION

*Fellow News* is published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center to relay information about the fellowship program and provide a forum for information exchange among fellows, mentors, Sea Grant, and the Center.

Please send your questions and suggestions for future editions to [csc.fellowships@noaa.gov](mailto:csc.fellowships@noaa.gov)

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