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1,500 Scientists to Explore Grand Challenges in Coastal and Estuarine Science in Portland

Nearly 1,500 estuarine scientists, managers and professionals in government, business, nonprofit and related organizations, and graduate students from across the globe will gather Nov. 8 - 12 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland for the 23rd Biennial Conference of the [Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation \(CERF\)](http://www.erf.org). The [CERF 2015](http://www.erf.org) theme of *Grand Challenges in Coastal & Estuarine Science: Securing Our Future* provides an exciting opportunity to explore the complex interrelated issues confronting a sustainable future for those who live in the coastal zone, focusing on some of the greatest science and management challenges for coastal resources, including the rapidly emerging threat of ocean and near coastal acidification. Beth Kerttula, Director of the National Ocean Council, will open up the conference with a keynote presentation on Sunday, Nov. 8.

“Our estuaries under threat, our cities and communities by the sea, are all confronted by unprecedented environmental change, conflicting needs of resource acquisition and conservation, and the continued demands of dense and growing human populations,” said Walt Nelson, of the Environmental Protection Agency, who is serving as a conference co-chair. “The great need to better understand complex interactions in managing and mitigating coastal challenges is a theme that runs throughout the conference and brings together many of the best and brightest in the coastal science community to look at these issues and how new data, tools, models and conceptual frameworks can increase our capabilities for meeting grand challenges now and into the future,” He added

Ron Thom, of Pacific Northwest National Lab, and a conference co-chair, expressed that, “CERF serves as an extremely important venue to share the latest on research and management of these systems, and provides an opportunity for emerging topics of concern to be discussed. It is a boon for graduate students and young scientists who are trying to understand the depth and breadth of coastal and estuarine science globally, and tease out what research, that is critical to management decisions, is needed.”

Anyone interested in registering to attend CERF 2015 or to learn more about the scientific program agenda should visit www.erf.org/cerf2015. Members of the media interested in attending the event should contact Lindsay Jennings at media@erf.org or (206) 209-5262.

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About CERF

The Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing the understanding and wise stewardship of estuarine and coastal ecosystems worldwide. Members of the Federation include academic researchers, public sector managers, teachers, consultants, students and others who are interested in estuaries. The CERF Biennial Conference is recognized as the premier conference on the science and management of coastal and estuarine systems and resources. Learn more about CERF at www.erf.org.