CERFs Up!

A wave of new information from the Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation

Vol. 44 Issue 1

IN THIS ISSUE:

#What'sNext?
A Message from the President

Women and men who have served CERF as President gathered at the 2017 Conference.

***From L to R**, top row: Don Boesch, Robert Twilley, Anne Giblin; 2nd from top: Candace Oviatt, Linda Schaffner, Susan Williams, Bob Howarth, Bob Orth; 3rd from top: Walter Boynton, Dennis Allen, Bob Christian, Chris D'Elia; Bottom: Nancy Rabalais, Hilary Neckles, Ken Heck.*

#WhatsNext? Through the deluge of painful wrongdoings unleashed by the #MeToo movement, the world was reminded of an ugly truth: sexual misconduct is ubiquitous. It's not just in Hollywood and politics, it's also pervasive in the academic and professional institutions to which we all belong. The voices of courageous survivors worldwide launched public dialogue and personal conversations on the depths of sexual misconduct in our society. Within my circles, most of my female friends and colleagues can recount incidents of sexual harassment or assault. Collectively, transgressions were more common against us as students and young professionals, when the imbalance of power was greatest, but they are not confined to that era. The reasons we didn't speak up at the time are complex, ranging from shame to fear of recrimination and potential impacts on our careers. Now, however, as exemplified by the #TimesUp movement, we have arrived at a watershed moment – through these conversations can, and should, come cultural change.

As I came of age professionally, I was inspired by a CERF culture that promoted the contributions of women to our disciplines and the Federation. CERF has long expressed support for women through dedicated conference functions and early election of women to leadership roles – in 1981, Barbara Welsh was only the sixth CERF president. But we must also adopt explicit policies and practices to ensure that the CERF culture embodies respect and safety for everyone who engages with our organization.

In recent years, approaches and resources for addressing sexual and gender-based harassment in the sciences have emerged from a variety of sources, including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. CERF implemented a Meetings Code of Conduct in advance of the 2017 conference, which the Governing Board and upcoming conference committees will work together to enforce. In addition, the Board plans to update CERF's Code of Ethics to include expectations and consequences surrounding sexual misconduct and discrimination. CERF is committed to promoting an environment that is safe and welcoming to all. #WhatsNext is up to us.

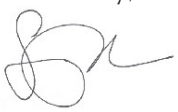
Hilary Neckles
CERF President

Executive Director's Letter

As 2017 came to an end, I took time to review the accomplishments of the past year. I read the CERF 2017 conference exit report and survey results. I wrote thank you letters to our major donors. I reflected on the two incredibly productive years of our outgoing Governing Board, with many new activities to go along with an ambitious strategic plan. And what I was left with was a profound sense of gratitude. Reviewing these achievements, I could not help but acknowledge and appreciate the hundreds of volunteers it takes to put on a successful CERF conference, the hundreds of donors who give their hard-earned money–from a couple of dollars to thousands–to support important CERF initiatives like student travel funds and the Tribal and First Nations conference programming, and the thousands of combined hours that CERF Governing Board members, committee members, and other volunteers put into all of our activities, including the journal, CESN, webinars, Affiliate Society programs, scientific awards, textbook, and the biennial conference. These quality programs provide a real benefit to our members and our community, and we could not provide them without your support. I am proud to say that CERF accomplishes so much more than other professional societies much larger than ours. It's a testament to the value that our members see in CERF that they are willing to put so much hard work into making us successful. Your continued engagement and support–whether through donations, volunteering, renewing your membership, or attending an Affiliate Society meeting or biennial conference–demonstrates the value you see in CERF. It's the reason I get up in the morning and am excited to go to work. The words "thank you" are inadequate to express the gratitude I feel, but these are the words that I have. Thank you for your passion, dedication, and commitment to our Federation!

I hope this letter might also inspire others to give back to CERF. Volunteering is such a fulfilling way to give back and get so much more from CERF. I hope you'll contact me if you'd like to volunteer with your Federation.

Sincerely,



Susan Park
Executive Director

Estuaries and Coasts Update

Estuaries and Coasts is the official journal of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation. Since entering a publishing agreement with Springer in 2004, the number of submissions has grown steadily at a rate of about 37 submissions per year, and now has nearly three times as many submissions as it did in 2004 (Fig. 1). In 2017, the journal set records with 424 new papers submitted and an average time to first decision of only 40 days. The journal is managed by a large team including the Co-Editors in Chief Charles (Si) Simenstad and Paul Montagna, Reviews Editor Ken Heck, Managing Editor Taylor Bowen, and 48 associate editors. The success of the journal is due to this dedicated team effort and demonstrates the vitality and immediacy of estuarine research worldwide.

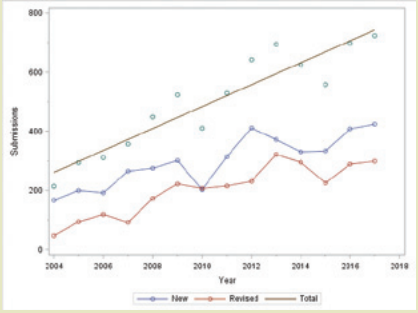


Fig. 1. Number of submissions to Estuaries and Coasts from 2004 to 2017.

Iris Anderson

Ken Heck

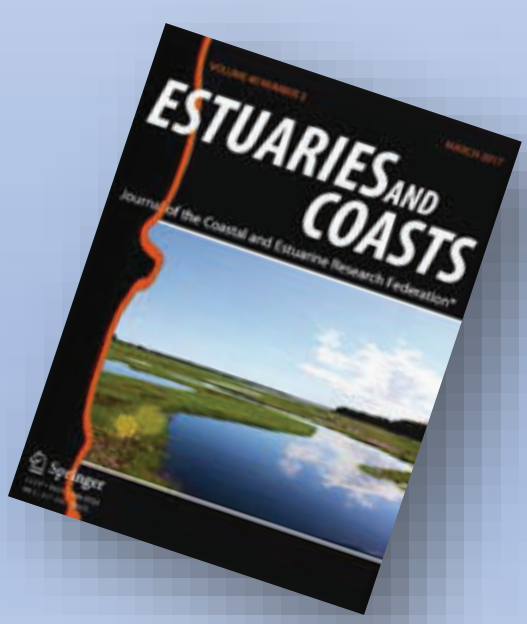
CERF thanks Iris Anderson for her years of service to *Estuaries and Coasts*, most recently as Reviews Editor.

We welcome Ken Heck as our new Reviews and Perspectives Editor beginning in 2018. Contact Ken at kheck@disl.org with your Reviews or Perspectives article ideas.

Submit your CERF 2017 Paper to *Estuaries and Coasts!*

A few great reasons to publish in our journal:

- 5-year impact factor of 2.44
- Fast decisions: 54 days average time to first decision
- Rapid online publication: 18 days average time from acceptance to online publication
- Broad readership: SpringerLink has over 50 million users at more than 15,000 institutions worldwide
- Open access option through Springer Open Choice
- Freely share your work via “SharedIt”
- 96% journal author satisfaction
- Identify your management-relevant paper as a “Management Application” article type



Considering a special issue or theme? Contact Charles “Si” Simenstad, Co-Editor in Chief (simenstd@u.washington.edu)

Considering a review or perspectives article? Contact Ken Heck, Reviews Editor (kheck@disl.org)

http://www.springer.com/environment/journal/12237

CESN coastal & estuarine science news

CERFs Up! now includes our most recent Coastal & Estuarine Science News (CESN) summaries.
Go to the CESN website at www.erf.org/cesn and sign up to have future issues delivered to your email inbox.

Phragmites May Hatch More Male Terrapins

Phragmites *does not damage nests, but does make them cooler*

The invasive reed *Phragmites* australis can spread quickly into disturbed areas, replace native vegetation, and fill tidal creeks so that they're nearly impassable. But does it affect diamondback terrapin nests? For terrapins, risks include direct damage from the growth of *Phragmites* roots as well as the potential for a hatchling sex ratio skewed toward males if shading by *Phragmites* causes nest temperatures to drop. A new study examines what this means for terrapins living in the Virginia's Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge, a barrier island at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

Researchers searched for nests and measured plant cover and stem density at each nest site they located. To evaluate the threats *Phragmites* might pose depending on terrapins' choice of nest location, they also buried temperature loggers and root in-growth bags at hypothetical nest sites with low (0-20%), medium (21-50%), and high (51-75%) *Phragmites* cover. Root ingrowth was modest and suggested that *Phragmites* roots are a relatively low risk to nests. However, sites with high *Phragmites* cover had significantly lower temperatures than those in areas with low cover. These differences were enough to cause a potential shift to predominantly male offspring.

Most actual terrapin nests located by the researchers were at locations with little to no *Phragmites*. However, anthropogenic activity and the spread of other invasive species could eventually force terrapins to nest in lower-quality sites where *Phragmites* shading will pose a problem. Although complete *Phragmites* eradication would be a daunting task, a lesser degree of control will likely be enough to maintain nesting habitat–this research suggests that terrapins can be successful in areas with limited *Phragmites* presence, as long as density is kept low.

Source: Cook, C.E., A.M. McCluskey, and R.M. Chambers. 2017. Impacts of Invasive *Phragmites* australis on Diamondback Terrapin Nesting in Chesapeake Bay. *Estuaries and Coasts*. DOI: 10.1007/s12237-017-0325-z

continued

Chesapeake Marsh Area Remains Constant

Upland migration of marshes kept pace with erosion in the twentieth century

When it comes to assessing how sea level rise might affect marshes, a lot of attention has been focused on inundation causing marshes to drown at their seaward edges. However, increasing sea levels also have the potential to help marshes expand into what are currently upland areas. Changes in the total extent of marsh habitat depend on the balance between these competing processes, and new research looks into how this is playing out in the Chesapeake Bay.

The researchers used historical maps called "T-sheets," dating from between 1846 and 1912, to locate the upland and seaward edges of the area's marshes in the late nineteenth century. Comparing this to aerial photographs from 2013, they found that marshes tended to expand in the southern portion of the Bay and contract in the mid and northern portions. However, erosion at the seaward edge and migration at the upland edge were essentially balanced over the twentieth century, and the total amount of marshland remained remarkably constant across the study area–311 square kilometers of tidal marshes in the late nineteenth century and 318 in 2013. The results also showed a weak relationship between a marsh's inland migration rate and the slope of the land, which could potentially be affected by land use and development.

Overall, this study demonstrates the importance of considering both erosion and migration when evaluating the potential effects of sea level rise. Despite the threats they face, marshes, at least in some regions, have the potential to maintain their spatial extent by migrating inland.

Source: Schieder, N.W., D.C. Walters, and M.L. Kirwan. 2017. Massive Upland to Wetland Conversion Compensated for Historical Marsh Loss in Chesapeake Bay, USA. *Estuaries and Coasts*. DOI: 10.1007/s12237-017-0336-9

Effects of Shoreline Stabilization

Different techniques have different effects on sedimentation and SAV

Stabilizing shorelines to protect property from erosion and sea level rise is already common, and climate change and expanding coastal human populations will only accelerate this trend. However, detailed information on how different shoreline structures affect nearshore sediment and submerged aquatic vegetation is lacking.

In a recent study, researchers collected sediment cores and recorded the presence or absence of submerged aquatic vegetation at sites around Chesapeake Bay with differing shoreline structures (offshore breakwaters, riprap, and "living" shoreline) as well as at naturally eroding shorelines, which served as controls. Linear regression models were able to predict nearshore sedimentary changes based on a combination of factors including structure type, shoreline erosion rates, dominant sediment source, and land use, and a few generalizations emerged. Overall, changes in sedimentation rates and content at naturally eroding sites were minimal and reflected broader environmental trends, whereas changes at hardened sites reflected the effects of structures. Breakwaters trap sediment, and therefore changes after their installation are related to the characteristics of the dominant sediment source. Riprap, on the other hand, severs the sediment flow link between land and sea, which can cause the loss of marshes and aquatic vegetation but also lead to local water quality improvements. SAV results were inconsistent, with coverage increasing at some breakwater and riprap sites but remaining stable or decreasing at others.

Bottom line? There's no "one size fits all" strategy for determining the likely effects of shoreline stabilization on sedimentation and aquatic vegetation. Managers need to consider historical shoreline erosion rates, land use, and dominant sediment type as well as the type of shoreline stabilization being contemplated in order to make the best possible decisions for sites under their care.

Source: Palinkas, C.M., L.P. Sanford, and E.W. Koch. 2017. Influence of Shoreline Stabilization Structures on the Nearshore Sedimentary Environment in Mesohaline Chesapeake Bay. *Estuaries and Coasts*. DOI: 10.1007/s12237-017-0339-6

Horseshoe Crab Haven?

Beach nourishment leads to small but detectable gains for horseshoe crabs

Horseshoe crabs depend on sandy beaches for spawning. New York's Plumb Beach, part of the urbanized estuary of Jamaica Bay, is a critical spawning location for the state's horseshoe crab population. A beach nourishment project in 2012, done to protect a major highway, provided an opportunity for researchers to monitor the activity of horseshoe crabs and evaluate how beach nourishment affects a site's suitability for spawning.

The study compared the number of mating horseshoe crabs, the density of eggs deposited, and the sediment characteristics of the freshly nourished western end of the beach with conditions at the more natural eastern end. Before the nourishment project, very few horseshoe crabs spawned at the western site and this remained true throughout the study. There was little to no change in the first year after nourishment, with small increases during the second and third years. Egg deposition did not change at the western site, remaining at low levels.

Although the two beach sections looked superficially similar after the nourishment project, sediment at the nourished beach was finer and more uniform, creating a harder surface with less oxygen diffusion. As a result, female horseshoe crabs may have approached the beach but laid their eggs elsewhere after discovering the sediment conditions. However, the differences between the two sites became smaller over time, and the sediments at the nourished beach may eventually become more suitable for the crabs.

Despite the limited benefits to horseshoe crabs after beach nourishment, the study's authors see it as preferable to the use of bulkheads or revetments. The likelihood of successfully restoring horseshoe crab spawning grounds, they suggest, can be enhanced with a better understanding of a specific site's hydrodynamics and geomorphology.

Source: Botton, M.L, C.P. Colón, J. Rowden, S. Elbin, D. Kriensky, K. McKown, M. Sclafani, and R. Madden. 2017. Effects of a Beach Nourishment Project in Jamaica Bay, New York on Horseshoe Crab *(Limulus polyphemus)* Spawning Activity and Egg Deposition. *Estuaries and Coasts*. DOI: 10.1007/s12237-017-0337-8

Affiliate Society News

AERS Update

The Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AERS) was formed in 1948, which means that this year we are celebrating our 70th anniversary! Historical records indicate that in the early years, AERS meetings were freewheeling affairs where larger-than-life personalities engaged in vibrant scientific discourse in "rustic" settings. Many AERS traditions have been carried forward to this day, such as the Venerable Clam Award, informal meetings, and our commitment to students.

On the other hand, to stay vibrant and relevant, AERS has evolved, shedding outdated practices that do not serve. For example, the AERS membership just voted overwhelmingly to ratify a modernized constitution, which includes things like electronic voting, a new committee structure, a new officer position, and standards of conduct. AERS has been excited to join with CERF and other affiliates to launch new initiatives designed to diversify and broaden our membership, such as Rising TIDES. With generous support from CERF, AERS and other affiliates are also implementing new business services that include a website refresh and an online member portal. We're working to launch CERF-sponsored topical workshops, increase our social media footprint, and develop new awards and research grants for students and young professionals. And like many other groups, we are responding to national headwinds facing science and management by showing the relevance of our work to society.

The spring meeting of AERS will be held in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, on 5-7 April 2018, and we invite all CERF members to attend and help us celebrate our 70th anniversary! We will also engage all participants to help shape the continued evolution of AERS–our theme is, "AERS at 70: Bridging Past to Future". This meeting will include the usual top-quality scientific program, but with several twists. For example, esteemed (emeritus) AERSians will be paired with young professionals to discuss the theme, and we're aiming for 70 student participants! Expect workshops, history events, field trips, and a reception hosted by Dogfish Brewery. The CERFTones will be traveling down from New England to make sure everyone hits the dance floor after the Friday evening banquet. This will all be happening seaside, along the boardwalk. This meeting will shatter many records and long-lasting memories will be made, so don't miss it!

Clearly, the AERS board has been exceptionally busy. As I finish my term as president, I am grateful to everyone on the AERS board and committees, and the CERF Governing Board, for your commitment to service and professionalism. Your tireless efforts behind the scenes will ensure that AERS will remain a healthy and relevant society for another 70 years.

Danielle Kreeger
AERS President
14 February 2018

CAERS Update

Happy 2018 from CAERS!

We are happy to announce the results of the recent CAERS elections.

Congratulations to our new:

President-elect: David Gillett, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Treasurer/Secretary: Steve Litvin, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
Membership coordinator: Martha Sutula, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Graduate student rep: Katie Blaha-Robinson, University of San Diego

And thank you to the rest of our board for their continued service:

Past-president: Christine Whitcraft, California State University, Long Beach
Member at Large: Alex Parker, California State University Maritime Academy
Member at Large: Karen McLaughlin, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Student representative: Kate Hewett, University of California, Davis

We have been working on a few internal efforts that we'd like to share. We are in the process of applying for official non-profit status, and have just (soft) launched our new website at: https://CAERS.WildApricot.org. Check it out; it is a work in progress as we continue to refine content and get the membership and donation services up and running. We also revitalized our Facebook page (@CAERSscience) and are activating our Twitter account (coming soon), all with the help of our student reps and our ex-officio student rep, Jason Sadowski.

Please visit us online to share interesting science news, affiliate news, or your own stories from the field!

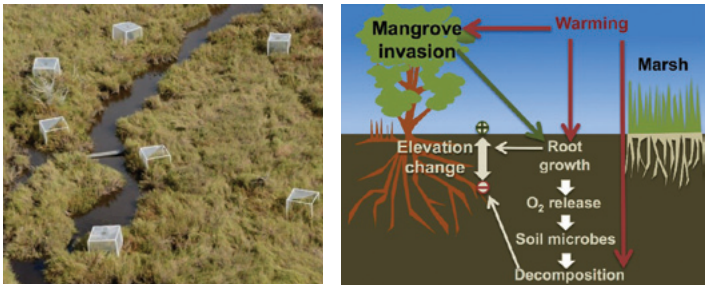
Warmest wishes,
Theresa Sinicrope Talley
(California Sea Grant)
CAERS President

SEERS Update

Project kick-off for regional coastal resilience project:

"Warming Ecosystem Temperatures in a Florida Ecotone Experiencing Transition (WETFEET)"

Florida is now to host an exciting new project funded by the National Science Foundation studying how warming temperatures and mangrove migration interact to affect wetland resilience. Marsh habitats depend on their ability to build up soil to keep up with rising seas. The roots of plants found in marsh habitats "push up" the soil helping to increase the marsh elevation; however, with the oxygen provided by the marsh plants, bacteria in the soil can decompose the debris, resulting in decreasing marsh elevation. The project will investigate how warming temperatures and invading plants alter marsh elevation at six sites from northeast Florida to the Keys.



Plexiglass chambers (left) will simulate warming air temperatures to study relative rates of biogeochemical processes (right) in plots with and without mangroves.

Warming chambers will be placed over plots containing pure marsh vegetation (e.g., smooth cordgrass) or a mixture of marsh vegetation and mangroves. For three years, root growth, root biomass, decomposition rates, and surface elevation will be measured and compared among the plots. Afterward, a natural capital assessment of coastal protection will be conducted using InVEST software. Additionally, long-term marsh elevation change will be modeled using the Marsh Equilibrium Model to predict how vulnerable the wetlands are to rising seas. Lastly, 3D educational videos will be created to inform visitors how these public lands are changing.

Project leads from Villanova University (Samantha Chapman and Adam Langley), Smithsonian Institute (Candy Feller), University of South Carolina (Jim Morris), University of Louisiana (Mark Hester), and Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR, Nikki Dix) held the kick-off meeting in January at the GTMNERR. The team met with GTMNERR staff as well as managers and scientists from Northeast Florida Aquatic Preserves, University of Florida, and University of North Florida to brief them on the project plan, discuss site selection, and review results from a survey of regional stakeholders.

Field work will begin this coming spring with many graduate and undergraduate students getting their feet wet!

SEERS Scientists and Students Come Together in the Satilla Estuary, Georgia

On the southeast coast of Georgia some twenty miles from the Florida-Georgia line, a relatively small estuary is getting a lot of attention from academic, non-profit, and government entities after decades of concerns were raised by local residents. The Satilla Estuary, like many coastal ecosystems, has been altered by humans in the interest of development, commerce, and increased accessibility to its waters. Between 1900 and 1939, eight man-made cuts were made between natural tidal creeks and the Satilla River to improve navigation and facilitate the transport of timber in the system. One cut in particular has been at the forefront of investigation since its construction for its contribution to shoaling in the creeks it connects. Noyes Cut was originally dug by locals in 1910 to link an auxiliary channel to the main Satilla River, but it was later expanded to a depth of five feet and a width of 50 feet by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Noyes Cut is no longer maintained for its original intended purpose, but it has grossly expanded in size and been associated with increased sedimentation, decreased water quality, and decreased habitat suitability for recreationally, commercially, and ecologically-valued species. A 1983 study conducted by USACE in response to public concerns concluded that shoaling and the associated impacts will continue to be a problem in the area unless some or all of the artificial cuts are closed. Noyes Cut was named as one of the cuts that, if closed, would provide the most benefit to the surrounding tidal creeks by increasing water flows and circulation in the area.

The issues surrounding Noyes Cut and the Satilla River Estuary were first presented to the Southeastern Estua-

rine Research Society (SEERS) by long-time member and former officer Clay Montague (University of Florida, Associate Professor Emeritus) at the spring 2013 meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. Since retiring to that area and talking with the locals, Clay has become very knowledgeable and passionate about the impacts of the artificial cuts on the hydrology of the system and wanted to bring attention to the possible restoration opportunity. In the audience during his presentation were SEERS members Jessica Reichmuth (Augusta University, Biology Associate Professor) and Loren Mathews (Georgia Southern University, Biology Lecturer), who had never met but were both independently looking to get involved with a new research project in the region. After getting more information from Clay, the three SEERS members came together and drafted a plan to begin a holistic assessment of the Satilla Estuary from a top-down (or bottom-up, if you prefer) approach. Joining the plan was another SEERS member Risa Cohen (Georgia Southern University, Biology Professor), a handful of other faculty from Augusta University, hundreds of students from both universities, the Satilla Riverkeeper organization, and dozens of local residents from the Dover Bluff Club that had been raising concerns about the issue since the mid-1900s. In June of 2014, the team began its monthly field sampling at four different sites (three sites considered to be impacted by Noyes Cut and one site that served as a natural, unimpacted reference). Each month, bottom-up parameters (e.g., water chemistry and flow, light availability, phytoplankton abundance, salt marsh plant diversity, and sediment microbial diversity) and top-down forces (e.g., fish/mobile invertebrate diversity, crustacean population structure, food web analysis, and oyster abundance) are assessed using monitoring protocols. Now in its third-year of ongoing sampling efforts, the project has been sustained by over 2,000 undergraduate student volunteer hours, over 200 graduate student volunteer hours, over 1,200 local landowner volunteer hours, and over 100 local citizen scientist volunteer hours. Furthermore, the data collected has been presented at eight public meetings with local residents, ten presentations at SEERS and other regional society meetings, and six presentations at CERF at its biannual international meetings.

The project team scouting a potential warming experiment site within the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Meanwhile, USACE recently completed a follow-up study of water flow through the Satilla Estuary and generated hydrodynamic model outputs to better understand the impacts of Noyes Cut and the other artificial channels in the system. A draft proposal to close Noyes Cut and two other sections was released in December 2017 in accordance with the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, which allows for modifications to existing Federal projects to be made for environmental benefits. The proposal estimates that 4,518 acres that encompass the Satilla River tributaries and Spartina dominant marshlands will be restored. In addition to redistributing sediments, the closure of Noyes Cut and the two other sections is also expected to improve salinity gradients which serve as directional cues for migratory fish, shrimp, and crabs. This restoration plan presents an incredible opportunity for the SEERS team of scientists and students to gather pre- and post-closure data if the plan moves forward.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AERS Spring Meeting
5–7 April 2018

NEERS Spring Meeting
26–28 April 2018

CERF 2018 Spring Webinar
8 May 2018

ACCESS 2018
24–26 May 2018

See full calendar at www.erf.org/events

GERS Update

GERS Research Spotlight

Several researchers across the Gulf of Mexico are partnering for a large-scale evaluation of the role of turtlegrass (Thalassia testudinum) as habitat for nekton along the distribution of this seagrass in the northern Gulf of Mexico. In a project funded by the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program, the project team, led by GERS Member-at-Large Kelly Darnell (The University of Southern Mississippi, USM), and including GERS Secretary-Treasurer Zack Darnell (USM), Lee Smee (Dauphin Island Sea Lab), Charlie Martin (University of Florida), Penny Hall (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FWCC) and Brad Furman (FWCC), will survey finfish and invertebrates in turtlegrass using benthic sleds and trawls in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. Data from these surveys, combined with field growth and predation experiments using blue crabs (Callinectes sapidus), will be used to develop state-specific production models with a goal of providing critical information to resource managers across the Gulf of Mexico. Field sampling and experiments will begin in summer 2018.

For more details, contact Kelly Darnell at kelly.darnell@usm.edu

Save the date!

The biennial GERS meeting will be held 8-10 November 2018 on the Texas A&M University at Galveston campus. The organizing committee is working to keep costs low to encourage student attendance and participation. This will be a fun and informative meeting. Plans are in the works for field trips, workshops, and a waterfront banquet. The call for abstracts and student travel award application information will come out in summer 2018. Stay tuned to our social media pages (@GulfEstuarineRS on Twitter and Facebook) and website (www.gers.us) for more details!

CERF 2018 Spring Webinar

Working with Journalists: Why It's Important, What to Expect & How to Prepare

By Dr. Sunshine Menezes

Tuesday, 8 May 2018, 1-2 PM EDT

The journalism industry has experienced a massive transformation over the past decade. Still, journalists remain important agenda-setters regarding public opinion and how policy makers prioritize their efforts. It is essential, therefore, that scientists know how to establish strong working relationships with journalists and put their best feet forward in interviews. Dr. Sunshine Menezes, executive director of the University of Rhode Island's [Metcalf Institute], a global leader in science training for journalists, will share insights and tips on what to expect in your interactions with journalists, how to cultivate productive relationships, and how to prepare for interviews.

Register at http://www.erf.org/webinars

Sunshine Menezes, Ph.D. has served as executive director of the Metcalf Institute at the University of Rhode Island since 2006. Menezes became a Clinical Associate Professor of Environmental Communication in the URI Department of Natural Resources Science in 2017. She was associate director for communication in the URI GSO Office of Marine Programs from 2006–2017. Prior to focusing her communication efforts on improving news coverage of the environment, she developed national and state-level environmental policy, first as a Dean John Knauss National Sea Grant Marine Policy Fellow with Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., and later as part of a multidisciplinary team at the URI Coastal Resources Center and Rhode Island Sea Grant. Menezes received a B.S. in zoology from Michigan State University, a Ph.D. in biological oceanography from the URI Graduate School of Oceanography, and was a Rhode Island Foundation Fellow from 2013-2014.

Introducing New Job Board Updates

We realize our members are searching for more than jobs when they search our job board, so we've revamped our navigation. Members can now easily filter the job board between jobs, student opportunities, and funding and other opportunities. Are you hiring or offering a great student opportunity? Post it on the CERF job board! Members and non-members alike are welcome to submit postings to the board. Visit our job board!

We've Extended Early Professional Membership!

CERF prides itself on being student and early career friendly, as these members are the heart and soul of our society, as well as the future of our discipline. Because of this, CERF has extended the early professional membership to those who are five-years post degree. CERF recognizes that for early professionals, membership dues can be a substantial cost, and we want to encourage our early-career members to stay engaged and take advantage of career development and other CERF opportunities as they become established in their professions.

This reflects a growing recognition that the precarious early career stage extends longer than three years, with many professionals taking time off or relocating for family; accepting multiple successive post-doc, post-grad, or other temporary positions; or otherwise delaying permanent employment in their early career.

Don't forget to renew your membership! Visit https://cerf.memberclicks.net/join-us to learn more and see if you're eligible for a discounted membership.

CERF Governing Board

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