

CERF's Up!

Vol. 45:1



**A new wave
of information from
the Coastal and Estuarine
Research Federation**



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Reflection, Reinvigoration, and Renewal: A Message from the President

Hilary Neckles



Due to the time delays inherent in newsletter production, I write this as the new year begins and

you are reading it as the northern hemisphere's vernal equinox approaches. Both dates, however, are traditional times of reflection, reinvigoration, and renewal. As I reflect on CERF's past year I am filled with gratitude for our strong member community and for the many amazing volunteers who are working to advance our mission. Reinvigoration is evident throughout all the [CERF committees](#), the workhorses of our organization—contact any committee chair to get involved. I hope you are taking advantage of the regular webinars offered to expand our thinking, knowledge, and skills “beyond the books”. Look for new opportunities to strengthen CERF connections in the coming months at scales ranging from local meetups to regional management-oriented workshops to global communities of practice. And as the countdown to CERF 2019 begins in earnest, the conference committees are awash with activity. Check out some highlights within and monitor the [website](#)¹ for regular updates on what promises to be an exciting week in Mobile.

Conversations surrounding renewal in my circles, as I expect many of yours, often include



commitments to maintaining (or finding?) work-life balance. The widely available sets of tips and tools include varied approaches for setting goals; managing one's time; establishing boundaries; and prioritizing self-care, family time, and social interactions, but common to all is the fundamental need for strong support networks. I count my relationships with CERF friends and colleagues high among my support systems. These relationships flow not only from our shared dedication to estuaries and coasts, but also from closely shared experiences—days in the field and nights in the lab, manuscripts accepted and rejected, personal celebrations and difficulties—and buoy me through challenges. I hope that you, too, are sustained by our community.

Our exceptional, indefatigable Executive Director Susan Park and our professional, efficient headquarters staff are consistently at the front lines of CERF activities. In addition to their critical routine work in support of all CERF operations, they have recently completed the painstaking job of updating the CERF domain name across our internet presence. Read more about this new era within.

I leave you with eager anticipation for the coming CERF year. As you progress in your research and stewardship of estuaries and coasts, I encourage you to find ways to nurture your spirit and nourish your soul—and remember, [CERF.science](#)² always has your back.



¹ <http://www.cerf.science/cerf-2019> ² www.cerf.science

Policy Update—Waters of the United States

On 11 December 2018, the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers released a proposed rule to revise the definition of “waters of the United States (WOTUS)” protected under the Clean Water Act. This proposed rule would replace the 2015 Clean Water Rule, which has been proposed for repeal.

The proposed rule narrows the definition of WOTUS, removing from federal protection most ephemeral and intermittent streams, as well as wetlands without a surface connection to adjacent waters. By some estimates, this would remove 51 percent of wetlands and 18

percent of streams from federal oversight.

CERF, in partnership with the Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies (CASS), has released a statement in opposition to this proposed rule, highlighting the value of the affected habitats and calling for any re-definition of WOTUS to be informed by science. CASS is also preparing public comments on the proposed rule.

You can read the statement, as well as CERF’s previous policy comments and statements on WOTUS, at <https://www.cerf.science/news-advocacy>.

<https://www.cerf.science/news-advocacy>

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Affiliate Society

NEWS & UPDATES

Gulf Estuarine Research Society (GERS): Biennial Conference Recap

The biennial Gulf Estuarine Research Society was held 8-9 November 2018 in the brand-new meeting facility on the Texas A&M University at Galveston campus. GERS welcomed more than 140 participants from across the Gulf of Mexico, including more than 75 graduate and undergraduate students. Plenary talks by Dr. Denise Reed and Dr. Marcus Drymon provided unique and complementary insights into the challenges of long-term fishery and ecosystem management. Other highlights included a career panel for students and recent graduates, a raffle to raise student travel funds, kayaking and bird-watching field trips, an R Statistics workshop, and a waterfront banquet in the historic Strand District in downtown Galveston.

The meeting would not have been possible without many generous sponsorships. Travel awards were presented to 20 students, thanks to sponsorships from Texas Sea Grant, Louisiana Sea Grant, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant, and the University of Southern Mississippi. Program book and facility costs were offset by Texas A&M University at Galveston. Additional donations



GERS student travel award recipients at the closing banquet

were received from the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC); Whitenton Group; Tampa Bay Estuary Program; Turner Designs; Marilyn & Kevin McKay; Drs. Merrell, Rooker, Brody, and Schwarz at TAMUG; and the TAMUG Departments of Marine Biology and Marine Sciences. The GERS board and meeting planning committee deeply appreciate the community of support that made this meeting possible!

Student presentations stole the show at this meeting. Selecting presentation award winners was a tough job! This year, the student presentation awards were dedicated to the memory of Dr. Wes Tunnell, who passed away on 14 July, 2018. Dr. Tunnell had a four-decade career at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, where he was Professor of Biology in

the Life Sciences Department and Endowed Chair of Biodiversity and Conservation Science at the Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies. At the closing banquet, Dr. Paul Montagna gave a touching tribute to Dr. Tunnell, pointing out his academic accomplishments, but also emphasizing that it was especially fitting to dedicate a student

award to Dr. Tunnell, because of the many former students who all testified that “Wes had transformed my life...” or that “Wes had completely changed my life for the better...”. The Wes Tunnell Student Presentation Award Winners for Best Oral Presentation were: First Place, Haley Gancel, Dauphin Island Sea Lab; Second Place, Victoria Congdon, University of Texas Marine Science Institute; Third Place, Janelle Goeke, TAMUG. Best Poster Presentation awards went to: First Place, Caitlin Young, University of Texas Marine Science Institute; Second Place, Allen Schaefer, Louisiana Tech University; Third Place, Erin Miller, University of Houston.

In other news, nominations for the 2019-2021 GERS board election will open soon. There will be opportunities for members of the GERS community to serve as President-Elect, Member-at-Large, Student Representative, or Media Coordinator. Self-nominations will be welcome!

Stay tuned to our social media pages and upcoming newsletters for more news and updates (@GulfEstuarineRS on ¹Twitter and ²Facebook) and the ³GERS website.

¹ <https://twitter.com/GulfEstuarineRS>

² <https://www.facebook.com/GulfEstuarineRS/>

³ www.gers.us

Affiliate Society

NEWS & UPDATES

Pacific Estuarine Research Federation (PERS)

PERS is expecting to have a great year in 2019. We have added several new members to the governing board, expanding our participation from our Oregon members. We are welcoming Elizabeth Perotti as president-elect. Elizabeth is a shellfish biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. She spends her time in estuaries, investigating environmental and habitat management issues. Her latest foray is using unmanned aerial vehicles to quantify shellfish presence

in the nearshore. PERS also added Jenni Schmitt as our Oregon Member at Large and Britta Baechler as our Student Representative. From our more northern contingent, PERS added Katrina Poppe as Washington Member at Large and Carolyn Prentice as our British Columbia Member at Large. We welcome them to board and appreciate their contribution to the PERS family.

We are also busy planning our annual meeting. Our 42nd annual meeting will take place in Anacortes, WA, April 25 - 27. The theme of our conference will be "Performing Science in Today's Changing World" which will center on what it means to investigate scientific questions with ever changing baseline conditions. This includes everything from including Traditional Knowledge (TK) in management decisions to adding new study questions (e.g. microplastics, refractory car-



bon, acidification) to the overall research landscape. If our 2018 meeting is any indication, our research topics are ever-evolving as our landscape is changing and application of those results is more imperative than ever. Stay tuned to our website and social media for meeting updates.

As a side note, we have refreshed our [website](#) with new content and photos. Give it a look!

¹ <http://www.pers-erf.org/>

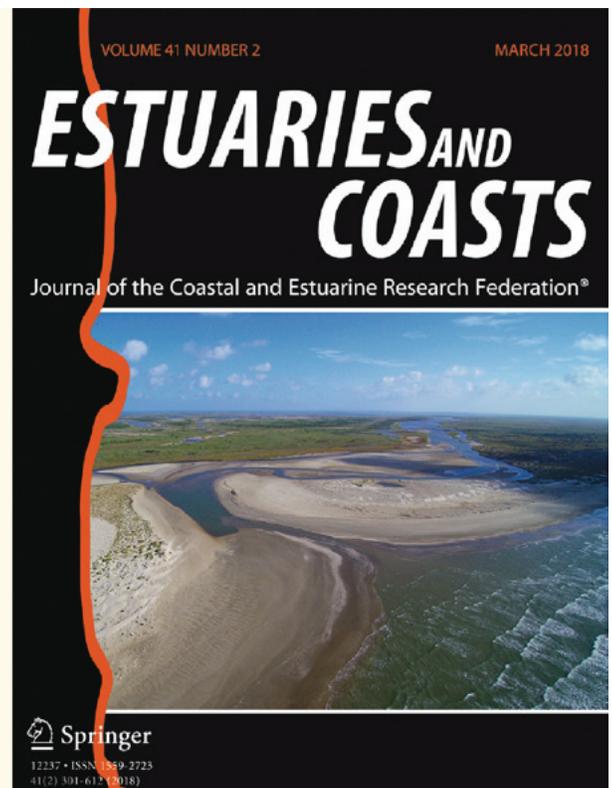
² <https://www.facebook.com/pers.cerf/>

³ <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3822758/>

Management Applications Papers Now Accepted to *Estuaries and Coasts*!

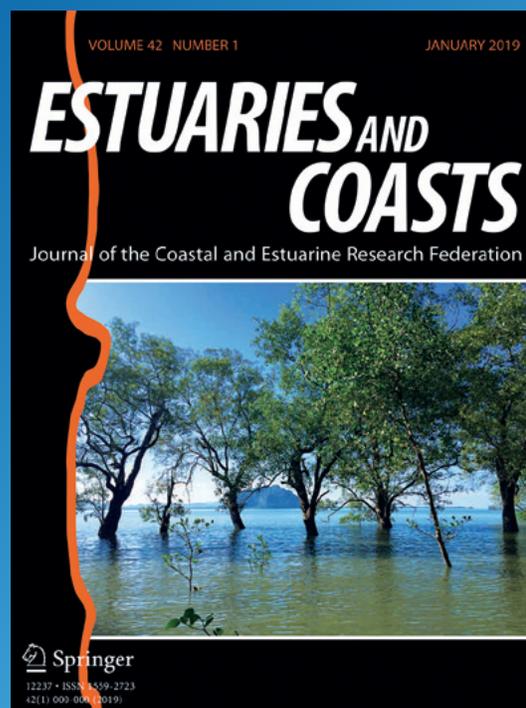
Management applications papers demonstrate the application of research to address contemporary estuarine and coastal management, socioeconomic, and policy issues. More information, including instructions to authors, can be found online.

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



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Affiliate Society

NEWS & UPDATES

Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (SEERS): SEERS Meeting in Wilmington, NC: Take Two!

After Hurricane Michael decided to pay a visit to UNC-Wilmington and wreak havoc upon our fall meeting location, we decided to take our meeting theme, The Art of Resilience, to heart. We are persevering and having our spring meeting in Wilmington, March 7–9. There has been some slight tinkering to the agenda due to the original keynote speaker being unavailable after recently bringing new life into this world (Congrats Rachel!). Our new keynote speaker will be Dr. Jess Whitehead of NC Sea Grant.

She co-created the Vulnerability, Consequences, and Adaptation Planning Scenarios process to help community stakeholders, e.g., Hyde County and the Town of Nags Head, consider how to increase their resilience to hazards. Thanks, Jess, for stepping in at the last minute and helping make our meeting a success! We will also be electing new officers at this meeting; Treasurer, Secretary, and Student Representative. Nominations are currently being accepted. Check out www.seers.org for more info on the meeting, being an officer, and SEERS activities.

Speaking of...

Joan Sheldon's global temperature rise scarf (photo) was just featured in an article about climate change and crafting! This was a direct result of the CERF 2015 session on Artistic Pathways to Understanding Science. [Check it out](#)².

And

Shannon Gregory is the subject of our recent Facebook Student Spotlight. She is a master's



Joan Sheldon's temperature rise scarf.
Photo: Wade Sheldon

candidate at Clemson University studying Wildlife and Fisheries Biology. Her undergraduate work examined the impacts of ocean acidification on fiddler crab limb regeneration. As a graduate student she has been examining vitellogenin production in male blue crabs as a bio-indicator of exposure to endocrine disrupting compounds. Shannon is currently a research technician at the Savannah River Ecology Lab where she is assisting with a raccoon translocation experiment and a transgenerational mosquito study examining pesticide and metal exposure. Following graduation this spring, Shannon hopes to embark on a career in research and public outreach.

¹ www.seers.org ² <https://www.fastcompany.com/90290800/crafting-take-a-dark-turn-in-the-age-of-climate-crisis>

Out with the ORG—In with the NEW!

CERF has a new domain name

After many years of “erf.org,” we decided that it was finally time for a change. CERF is proud to be a scientifically progressive Federation, and as such has replaced “org” with “science.”

In addition, CERF's old domain name was an artifact of the time when we were still just the Estuarine Research Federation; we figured it was time to add the “C”!

This is an exciting step for our Federation, and it's important you know how to reach us. Please find our new information below, and be sure to update your bookmarks and contacts:

Website: www.cerf.science Email: info@cerf.science

If you are having trouble accessing our website, you may need to clear your web browser's cache and cookies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AERS Spring Meeting
4 - 6 April

NEERS Spring 2019 Meeting
25 - 27 April

ACCESS 2019
6 - 10 May

2019 Scientific Awards

We invite and urge you to nominate a colleague, mentor, and/or former student for a prestigious Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation scientific award. The awards nominations deadline is 5 April. Winners will be chosen in May and will be announced on the website soon after.

How to Nominate

Each award accepts nominations differently. Visit our [website](#)¹ to read more in depth about each award and their nomination procedures. Thank you for helping the Federation reward excellence among our colleagues. Please remember that the deadline to nominate is 5 April 2019.

Coastal Stewardship Award— Stewardship (Organization)

CERF established the Coastal Stewardship Award to honor notable achievements in promoting the wise management of estuarine and coastal systems. This award recognizes specific projects, programs and organizations for their exemplary stewardship activities, including success in management, policy, restoration, and conservation efforts. CERF appreciates the multiple scales at which impacts may be achieved; accordingly, the Coastal Stewardship Awards are occasional awards and may represent a hierarchy of recognition at CERF biennial conferences. If given, one or more awards of recognition could be presented biennially in association with the CERF conferences.

Cronin Award— Early Achievement

The Cronin Award is named for Dr. L. Eugene Cronin, Sr., the first president of ERF and a significant contributor to estuarine science and our organization. This award recognizes the significant accomplishments of an estuarine scientist who is in the early stages of his/her career development. The recipient will have shown great promise with work carried out during the first six years past the Ph.D.

Margaret A. Davidson Award— Stewardship (Individual)

This award was established to honor Margaret A. Davidson's distinguished career in coastal resource management and her support of the application of science to the wise stewardship of estuaries and coasts. The Davidson award recognizes an individual that demonstrates extraordinary leadership, service, innovation, and commitment to the management of estuarine and coastal systems. Other CERF awards focus on research and education excellence; this award will recognize those who have worked in the estuarine and coastal arena and excelled in management and policy.

Odum Award— Lifetime Achievement

The Odum Award is named for the three outstanding ecological scientists in the Odum family: Dr. Howard T. Odum; Dr. Eugene P. Odum; and Dr. William E. Odum, III. This award recognizes the

lifetime achievements of an outstanding estuarine scientist. It honors an individual whose record of sustained accomplishments has made important contributions to our understanding of estuaries and coastal ecosystems.

Pritchard Award— Physical Oceanography Paper

This award was established to honor Dr. Donald W. Pritchard, whose insightful research on the physical dynamics of coastal systems set the stage for much of the research in physical oceanography that is being conducted today. The Pritchard Award recognizes the author(s) of the best physical oceanography paper published in *Estuaries and Coasts* within the two-year interval between CERF conferences.

William A. Niering Award— Outstanding Educator

To recognize the central role that education plays in achieving the objectives of our society, the Federation's Governing Board established an award named for a leader in estuarine education, Dr. William A. Niering. The award is for an individual who has played a particularly important role in education at any level—from primary school to the graduate level, inside or out of the classroom, or in the education of the general public through outreach activities.

*Nominate Yourself or a Colleague Today!*¹

¹ <https://www.cerf.science/scientific-awards-nominations>

Supplemental Material

The honest stories about how science really gets done

The Bright Side of the Halloween Oyster Massacre

Alex Lowe

I've been caught in storms in small boats, lost in fog in the Southern Ocean, and stuck on a raft in a remote estuary moving buckets of water on a 100°F day. Still October 31st, 2015, was objectively the worst day of fieldwork I have ever had. At its best, Padilla Bay, Washington, is an intertidal paradise: blue skies and plentiful summer hours irradiate an enormous expanse of happy eelgrass hissing with photosynthetic delight (photo). But the Halloween of 2015 was nothing like that. Low tide was at 2:10 am and an autumn storm had rolled in with a small craft warning and torrential downpour. As we wandered the pitch dark tideflat, sifting through mounds of heavy eelgrass to retrieve the oysters I had glued to a dozen or so ceramic bathroom tiles, it felt like we were being sprayed in the face with a garden hose. Morale was dropping faster than the tide.

One by one we found the tiles and the excitement of wrapping up the field portion of my first dissertation chapter melted into dread. Tile after tile contained only dead oysters. Just the empty shells of a failed experiment, each perfectly perforated by marauding radulae. But it got worse. When



Padilla Bay, Washington, at its best. Alexis Lee pulls a sled loaded with field equipment across the tidal flat as the eelgrass bed stretches as far as you can see.

we turned back for home, the lights I had been using as a guide looked just like the other lights all around the bay: equally distant and separated in all directions by a mile of tidal flat, sloughs and rapidly expanding puddles. Were the puddles just accumulating rain or the first sign of the rising tide? Were those dark pools shallow puddles or impassable sloughs? Flooded boots provided answers as we attempted to retrace our steps loaded down with tiles and quadrats. With a final adrenaline-fueled push, we found our route on my iGPS and hustled back to the National

Estuarine Research Reserve to dry off and catalogue the Halloween Oyster Massacre.

I look back fondly on this experience now, aided by the passage of time. My coworkers made experiencing a different (nasty) side of a Northwest eelgrass bed surprisingly fun. I also learned valuable lessons about how this ecosystem and ecological research work. When designing my first chapter I made conscious choices to improve experimental 'realism.' I chose to look at the effects of eelgrass on oysters in the field because



the worst days are the most memorable. Sometimes things don't work out like you expect. And sometimes the failure of a study or hypothesis is not a failure at all, but a clue to a more important process. It is hard to recognize the bright side of disappointment on your own. Yet through interacting with people in the field, lab, and literature we can learn to find the success in our failures.

The peer-reviewed results are published in:

Lowe, A. T., Kobelt, J., Horwith, M. et al. *Estuaries and Coasts* (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-018-00488-9>

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¹ <https://rdcu.be/bhfkx>

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The Latest Coastal & Estuarine Science News

Merryl Alber, *Managing Editor*

Claudia Geib, *Science Writer/Coordinating Editor*

CERF's Up! now includes the titles of our most recent Coastal and Estuarine Science News (CESN) summaries. Go to the [CESN website](#)¹ to read the full summaries and sign up to have future issues delivered to your email inbox.

JANUARY 2019

Breakwater Associated Morphological Changes Increase Estuary Flood Risk "Ensemble modeling" predicts flood effects in a Portuguese estuary

Accurately predicting the effects of estuary flooding is increasingly critical in the era of climate change, especially in highly urbanized estuaries where human activity has altered local morpho-hydrodynamics. A recent study applied an "ensemble" method—running two or more related but different numerical models and then synthesizing the results into a single solution—to paint a more accurate picture of flood risk in the Douro River estuary on Europe's Iberian Peninsula.

www.cerf.science/cesn-january-2019#Article1

Invertebrates as Indicators in Restored Marshes Periwinkles and amphipods recover at different rates in restored Gulf marshes

Coastal restoration strives to create habitat that replicates the ecosystem services provided by natural systems—but how do coastal managers know when they've succeeded? This question has become especially important in the northern Gulf of Mexico as salt marsh restoration efforts continue after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and a new paper highlights two marsh invertebrates that can be used as indicators of ecosystem recovery following restoration.

www.cerf.science/cesn-january-2019#Article2

¹ www.cerf.science/cesn

Do oyster reefs protect nearby marsh? Shallow reefs could shelter low-lying marshes from erosion

Globally, marshlands fringing coastal bays are undergoing significant erosion. Because wave action is the primary driver of this erosion, research has suggested that oyster reefs, like coral reefs, might be effective at decreasing wave energy and slowing the retreat of vital marsh habitat. Yet there has been limited research quantifying just how much protection oyster reefs might offer. Using tide and wave recorders on both sides of human-constructed oyster reefs off Virginia's Delmarva Peninsula, the authors of a recent study determined that oyster reefs can indeed have a significant effect on wave energy. However, the benefits depended on the depth of the water above the reef.

www.cerf.science/cesn-january-2019#Article3

Lights Out! Artificial light at night Artificial lighting disrupts aquatic life

The bright lights of human life on the coast have a dark side. Situated at the population-dense border between ocean and land, coastal and estuarine ecosystems are likely to be disproportionately affected by artificial lighting at night, or ALAN. This form of light pollution is known to be highly disruptive to many kinds of animals, which use cues from ambient light to drive activity and maintain biological rhythms. In a recent review paper, researchers synthesized how human light pollution at night broadly disturbs coastal and estuarine systems.

www.cerf.science/cesn-january-2019#Article4

ANGELS AND SUSTAINERS

Thank You to Our CERF Angels and Sustainers

CERF 2018 Angels

From 1 January to 31 December 2018, the following Federation members donated to the William E. Odum Fund, Donald W. Pritchard Fund, CERF Enhancement Fund, Scott W. Nixon Fund, and/or Tribal and First Nation Representatives.

Thanks to all of you for your generosity. Your contributions of time, energy, and support make the Federation great.

Susan Adamowicz
Robert Aller
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Iris Anderson
Mary Barber
Joy Bartholomew
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CERF 2018 Sustainers

Many thanks to the members who joined or renewed at the Sustaining Member level* in 2018. Your extra efforts on behalf of CERF will ensure the future of the Federation.

Mark Adams
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Dennis Allen
Iris Anderson
Joy Bartholomew
Donald Boesch
Denise Breitburg
Kate Buenau
Jane Caffrey
Ruth Carmichael
Just Cebrian
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*Updated January 28, 2019

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CERF Represented at SACNAS 2018 Conference

Johnny Quispe



This past October I had the opportunity to attend the annual meeting for the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) in San Antonio, Texas, on behalf of CERF. This was my first time attending this meeting and I quickly realized why many flock to this meeting year after year. My SACNAS experience began as I waited at my gate at Newark International Airport. A group of students approached me to confirm if the next flight was going to San Antonio; it was. They informed me that this was part of their two-day journey of getting to San Antonio from Puerto Rico to attend SACNAS. We immediately connected and started sharing our interests and what we hoped to get out of attending this meeting. As I was a first-time attendee, they gave me the rundown of events that I needed to attend to make the most of my first conference such as the annual SACNAS Pow Wow.

Upon my arrival, San Antonio was electric, similar to the energy levels of a CERF conference with introductions, networking, and running into old friends and colleagues. I took the day before the meeting to plan out what sessions I would attend and how I would balance my time of being

at our booth, going to relevant sessions to talk to students and faculty members about CERF's 2019 meeting and our Rising TIDES program, and taking some time to attend sessions of personal interest.

On the first day of SACNAS, those of us assigned to manage the Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies (CASS) booth devised a plan to attract students to our booth by posting the CASS bookmark and booth location next to relevant symposium boards. This strategy paid dividends as many students came to visit us wondering who we were and how they could get more involved. For the remainder of the conference, we had a steady flow of visitors responding to our strategic bookmarks. During their visits, I had the opportunity to engage with students and inform them of the many opportunities that CERF has for students of all stages. I made it a point to ask them what brought them to SACNAS year after year and if they would consider coming to our next CERF meeting. This is a brief synopsis of the many conversations I had.

SACNAS for Students

Many of the students attending SACNAS were there because of the mentorship opportunities offered by the hosts as well as the attendees. A majority of the students were seniors in college or students finishing up a master's in hopes of pursuing a Ph.D. or finding a job after graduation. Regardless of their track, it was clear that this was the place to be if you wanted to network with likeminded profes-

sionals dedicated to increasing diversity in STEM. The resources available for attending the meeting were not only financial, but time. Students raved about how mentors were willing to sit down and have real conversations that helped guide them in their journeys. It proved that the culture of this meeting was indeed to help students find their next step by providing them with the mentors, network, and tools needed to succeed. SACNAS' dedication was apparent through its provision of space, time, and meals during the many workshops, information sessions, and the "Conversations with Scientists", another SACNAS staple.

Towards an Inclusive, Diverse, and Enriched Society

The majority of the students I interacted with at SACNAS hadn't heard of CERF, but were eager to see how they could get involved upon hearing of the opportunities available for professional and student development, the Rising TIDES program, and CERF's dedication to successful mentorship. I was able to speak firsthand of my experience as a Rising TIDES recipient and first-time attendee at the CERF 2017 meeting. The Rising TIDES program provided an opportunity for me to interact with other students and professors that would help shape my dissertation and my involvement with this professional society. My hope is that students are able to find a home within the CERF community that not only provides an opportunity for intellectual growth but personal growth as well.

A cascade of physical and biological changes unfolds at the ecosystem-wide level in the Bering Sea

Paula Dobbyn



Winter storm conditions in Little Diomedede, an island in the middle the Bering Sea.

Photo: Carla Ahkualuk

The Bering Sea, one of the world's most productive marine ecosystems, is undergoing massive changes that include a dramatic loss of sea ice last winter. Since the beginning of record keeping in 1850, sea ice in this northern region between Alaska and the Russian Far East has never been as scarce as it was during the winter months of 2017–2018, according to scientists.

“We have never been here before,” said Gay Sheffield, a marine mammal biologist in Nome and agent with the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program. “Having this area ice free in December reflects a massive environmental change,” she said in December at the American Geophysical Union conference in Washington, D.C.

As for a cause, John Walsh of the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska

Fairbanks points to three things: above average air temperatures during the fall, a very stormy winter, and warm water temperatures. Ice typically acts as a thermal barrier between northern and southern Bering Sea, but its absence caused two isolated marine ecosystems to converge, kicking off a cascading series of environmental events at the ecosystem level. The result was a change in how fish, birds, marine mammals and other marine wildlife move across the landscape dependent on natural resources. These changes then affect local communities. The result was a change in how fish, birds, marine mammals and other marine wildlife move across the landscape. These changes then affect local communities dependent on natural resources.

Coastal communities throughout the Bering Strait region depend on natural resources for nutritional,

CERF Represented at SACNAS 2018 Conference

continued from page 15

Overall, attending SACNAS was personally satisfying as I was able to attend sessions on coastal and marine sciences, participate in a science policy workshop, and expand my network with students and professionals passionate about science policy and science communication. I would

recommend this conference to students and faculty members passionate about diversity in STEM and looking to take the next step in their careers. I hope to be a regular attendee for years to come and hope that others will join this newly minted SACNISTA!

cultural and economic well-being. The dramatic changes we're seeing could affect food security, public health, marine safety, income and many other aspects of life," said Sheffield.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Alaska Fisheries Science Center recently released preliminary data from trawl surveys done during 2010, 2017, and 2018 in the Northern Bering Sea. The latest survey indicates that the biomass of walleye pollock increased over 5,000 percent compared to 2010 while Pacific cod increased more than 2,000 percent. There is still uncertainty about why these increases are happening, though they could be a result of large predatory fish of the southern Bering Sea (such as Pacific cod and pollock) responding to the thermal barrier loss and expanding their range into the Northern Bering Sea. In response to the massive thermal change that merged two ecosystems, some species of forage fish have crashed. For example, the biomass of smelts and Arctic cod, important fish to northern Bering Sea marine wildlife, has dropped by 98–100 percent between 2010 and 2017.

At the same time, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service began receiving reports last May of [dead and dying seabirds from communities along the northern Bering and southern Chukchi seas](#)¹. Investigators at the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center examined carcasses and concluded that the birds died of starvation. The die-offs, including murre, shearwaters, puffins, fulmars, kittiwakes and auklets, have also been reported in the Pribilof Islands and northern Gulf of Alaska, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Observations have been made by multiple organizations like Alaska Sea Grant, Kawerak Inc., Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council, National Park Service, and the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team. The approximately 1,500 seabirds reported dead by communities is likely only a small fraction of the overall number seabirds affected. An indicator of ocean ecosystem health, seabirds are often likened to the proverbial canary in a coal mine.

Marine mammals also struggled last summer. For example, 48 dead seals were documented in a

half-mile stretch of beach near the village of Wales. There were many other marine mammal stranding events as well, according to Sheffield.

All signs point to animals responding to a quickly changing environment.

From her home base in Nome, Sheffield works closely with regional communities, tribes, urban-based federal and state agencies as well as the general public to respond to marine wildlife events. She connects the public with agencies, takes samples from carcasses and sends them off for analysis, helps organize and distribute public outreach material, and responds to residents' concerns over their food security and safety. Sheffield would like to see better communication between federal agencies, tribes and others who live in the region to address these complex, cascading problems..

"It is difficult to have a meaningful dialogue with the diverse northern Bering stakeholders or with your authorized federal agency employee when you have little understanding of each other's knowledge, resources and challenges," she said. "Currently, those agencies are almost exclusively located far from the Bering Strait. For example, Anchorage is 500 miles, Juneau is more than 1,000 miles, and Seattle is some 2,000 miles away."

While the agencies may not be able to support staff in Nome or Bethel or Kotzebue, "we must work to improve two-way communication and understanding," Sheffield said.

Making communication more difficult, the Bering Sea and its marine resources are shared by the U.S. and Russia, requiring transboundary, international dialog.

"Right now, communication between U.S. and Russian federal marine wildlife and fisheries managers is extremely limited. We are in uncharted territory and we need to come together to address the immediate concerns that face us," she said.

-Paula Dobbyn

Paula is a freelance journalist based in Anchorage. She is also communications manager for Alaska Sea Grant

¹ <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1840/2018-alaska-seabird-die-off.htm>

RIDING THE wave TO CERF 2019

A series of updates and announcements pertaining to the 25th Biennial CERF Conference

Workshops at CERF 2019

Are you looking for a way to further enhance your CERF 2019 experience? Consider signing up for a workshop! We will be offering a diverse program of 11 workshops on Sunday, 3 November 2019, as an exciting kickoff to a great CERF conference. These workshops represent an opportunity to receive valuable training in topics ranging from effective communications to technical web-based software.

Alexandra Fries, from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, will be leading two two-hour interactive and hands-on communications workshops. Participants can sign up for either workshop separately or sign up for both for the full experience. **"Best Practices in Science Communication"** will help participants (1) translate their science to reach broader audiences and (2) develop key mes-

saging statements. **"Analyzing, Synthesizing, and Communicating Your Data"** will provide a brief overview of data analysis, synthesis, and visualization techniques with participants using their own data for hands-on practice.

Jacques Oliver and Jim Hagy, from the US Environmental Protection Agency, will lead a four-hour workshop **"Putting Science 'In the Room': Science Communication to Support Decision Mak-**

ing," that focuses on interactions between scientists, environmental managers, and policy makers with the goal of improving skills for sharing, soliciting, and receiving scientific information. Workshop participants will make a 10-minute presentation to a panel of state and federal environmental decision makers and will receive feedback on effective exchange of scientific information in a decision-making context.

Kathy Hintzen, Darren Lerner, and Rosie Alegado, from Hawaii Sea Grant, will lead a three-hour workshop **"Building and Sustaining Effective Community-Research Partnerships"** that will discuss best practices for engaging in equitable and mutually beneficial relationships with community partners. This workshop will allow professionals and researchers from diverse disciplines to share their expertise and experience with effective community-research partnerships.

Treda Grayson, from the EPA in Washington, D.C., will lead a four-hour workshop **"Out in the Open: Identifying, Understanding and Addressing Implicit Bias"** that will help promote a diverse and inclusive culture at all levels of CERF as well as within academic and professional settings. Expert speakers will provide tools and strategies, and facilitate discussions and exercises, to help address unconscious bias.

Holly Greening and Rich Batiuk, from CoastWise Partners, will



Important Dates:

Call for Abstracts | **30 Jan. - 1 May**
Student Travel Awards Applications | **14 Feb. - 6 Aug.**

REGISTRATION OPENS | 14 Feb.

Deadlines:

Early Bird | **15 May**
Presenter Registration | **3 Sept.**
Advance Registration | **6 Oct.**
Registration Closes | **14 Oct.**

www.cerf.science/cerf-2019

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CERF is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all conference participants.



lead a three-hour workshop ***“Engaging in Coastal Science After Retirement: Brainstorming Options and Opportunities”*** that will feature lightning presentations from retired CERF members who have made the retirement transition into a “second life” at universities, agencies, NGOs, and private companies as well as short presentations from entities interested in tapping into the experience and expertise of retiring CERF scientists. This workshop will include an interactive dialog about how CERF can encourage linking retiring scientists and entities wishing to engage them, and will give retirees as well as those planning to retire in the near future useful contacts for that second career. Confirmed lightning presenters include Rich Batiuk, Paul Stacey, Don Boesch, Joy Bartholomew, and Irv Mendelssohn.

Members of the SAV community will want to participate in the four-hour ***“Sharing and Applying Best Practices for Mapping/Monitoring Coastal SAV”*** workshop led by Mark Finkbeiner from NOAA Office for Coastal Management and others. This workshop will build on earlier CERF SAV workshops and present information on mapping and monitoring methods, indicators that can be measured at various scales, and technologies useful at each scale as well as present a pilot project from Mobile Bay that involves a SAV Community of Practice.

Ron Baker, from Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and Matt Taylor, from the New South Wales Australia Department of Primary Industries

- Fisheries (DPI-Fisheries) will be the co-conveners of a two-day, offsite workshop on ***“Concepts and Controversies in Tidal Marsh Ecology Revisited”***. Registration for this workshop will include lodging and meals at Dauphin Island Sea Lab (50 minutes from the CERF conference site), and will bring together tidal marsh ecologists from retired leaders to new graduate students to identify and discuss the key challenges facing these ecosystems into the 21st century. Confirmed panel presenters to date include Michael Weinstein, Si Simenstad, Rod Connolly, and Lawrence Rozas. Topics such as fishery linkages, connectivity, seascapes, economic and social valuation, restoration, and climate change will be discussed as insights, knowledge, and advice are shared between the old and new guard. Outcomes of this workshop, including manuscripts based on presentations and discussions, will be published in a special issue of *Estuaries and Coasts* following peer review.

Three technology-based workshops will also be available at CERF 2019. Kayla Key, from Tennessee Tech University, will lead an all-day workshop on ***“Beginner GIS for Ecologists”***. This workshop will provide an overview of GIS skills using ArcGIS, including use of existing data, creating your own data, and review of fundamental concepts for GIS. Participants will learn basic concepts of landscape ecology and implement applications of GIS through hands-on, self-guided exercises. Participants will be responsible

for bringing their own laptop and will receive instructions for downloading software prior to the conference. Auriel Fournier, from Mississippi State University, will lead an all-day workshop ***“The Next Step with R: Data Management, Graphics, and Functions”***. This workshop is geared towards participants who are already using R, and will allow them to automate daily tasks, manage data in tidyverse R packages, make publication-ready graphs using ggplot2, and write their own functions. Brian Glazer, from University of Hawaii, will offer a four-hour hands-on workshop titled ***“Democratizing Access to Ocean Observing Technology”*** that will provide specific training for construction of low-cost, high-resolution water level and temperature sensors through distribution and demonstration of DIY sensor kits to monitor and quantify in near-real-time coastal tides, inundation, and beach run-up risks.

All workshops have a limit to the number of participants to ensure maximum interactions and discussions. We encourage you to sign up for a workshop when registering for the CERF conference and take advantage of a low-cost, high quality training opportunity.



CERF 2019

25TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

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Abstract Submittal Opens: 30 January 2019

Abstract Deadline: 1 May 2019

Registration Opens: 14 February 2019

Early Bird Registration Deadline: 15 May 2019

Student Travel Award Application Deadline: 6 August 2019

Presenter Confirmation/Registration Deadline: 3 September 2019

Advance Registration Deadline: 6 October 2019

Please submit online through www.cerf.science/2019-call-for-abstracts (Details below.)

The CERF 2019 Scientific Program Committee (SPC) invites you to submit an abstract for an oral or poster presentation for CERF 2019. The Federation is committed to bringing scientists and students from around the world together to exchange information and ideas about the science and management of coastal ecosystems. Our Federation conferences provide outstanding opportunities for professionals at all stages in their career for continuing education and development.

Please consider submitting an abstract that examines new findings within CERF's traditional **scientific, education, and management** disciplines and encourages interaction among coastal and estuarine scientists and environmental management professionals.

The SPC also encourages abstracts that promote intellectually stimulating discussions related to our theme, including:

- Enhancing scientific relevance by integrating across disciplines
- Extracting new information from existing data
- Managing working coastlines and their multiple uses/resources across the natural and sociological continuum
- Readiness through communication and management of threats
- Responding to global climate change
- Cultural heritage and coastal humanities
- Diverse audiences

A list of CERF 2019 special and general sessions is available at

<https://cerf.confex.com/cerf/2019/webprogrampreliminary/start.html> as of 30 January 2019.

Be sure to watch for your email for reminders and to submit your abstract by the 1 May 2019 deadline.

Policies and Procedures for Submitting Abstracts to CERF 2019

Abstract Submission opens on 30 January 2019. The abstract submission deadline is 1 May 2019 at 11:59 PM PST (04:59 GMT).

The abstract submittal portal is accessed via the CERF 2019 conference web site at www.cerf.science/2019-call-for-abstracts. All abstracts must be received by the closing date noted above. Any abstracts received after the deadline may not be eligible for inclusion in the conference program.

Each submitter will be prompted to select a first choice and second choice session for their submission.

Guidelines: Please review the following guidelines and tips before submitting your abstract. If the guidelines are not followed, your abstract will not be accepted.

1. **SESSION:** Choose your first and second choice of sessions (see <https://cerf.confex.com/cerf/2019/webprogrampreliminary/start.html> to search sessions).
2. **TITLE:** There is a limit of 15 words for the title. The title should be entered in sentence case (i.e., only the first word and proper nouns are capitalized).
3. **PREFERRED PRESENTATION TYPE:** Descriptions of each format are in the next section; Traditional Oral is a 15-minute slot, Lightning is a 5-minute slot, Posters remain visible for 2 days. Select one:
 - Traditional Oral preferred, Lightning or Poster are acceptable
 - Lightning preferred, Traditional Oral or Poster are acceptable
 - Traditional Oral preferred, Poster is acceptable (no Lightning)
 - Lightning preferred, Poster is acceptable (no Traditional Oral)
 - Poster Only
4. **STUDENT AWARDS:** If you are a student, you can choose to have your presentation judged for the Student Awards.
5. **RELEASE OF ABSTRACT:** You must agree to the publication of your abstract in conference related materials and on the website where it will be publicly available.
6. **AUTHOR INFORMATION:** Enter authors in the order they should appear in the abstract. Provide institutional affiliations and contact information. There is a 12 author limit per abstract.
7. **KEYWORDS:** Select up to five key words for your submission.
8. **ABSTRACT:** All abstracts must be in English and metric units are preferred. There is a limit of 2,000 characters for the text of your abstract. The character count includes spaces.
9. **ABSTRACT FEE:** Abstracts will not be accepted into the scientific program without payment. The CERF 2019 fee is \$70 USD. Secure online payment is available at the end of the submission process. Please note that abstract fees are non-refundable.

Scientific Program Formats

Since we expect more than 1,000 abstracts to be received, many thematic and other factors will be simultaneously optimized to create the best possible conference program. The SPC reserves the right to assign abstracts to either poster or oral sessions; assignment to a Lightning presentation will only occur if the applicant indicates their willingness on the abstract submission form. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated. Oral sessions may be comprised of traditional oral presentations, all Lightning presentations, or a mix of the two.

1. Traditional Oral presentations. Each oral presentation will be assigned a total of 15 minutes encompassing a 12-minute talk plus a 3-minute discussion period. Due to the number of sessions and presentations, time cannot be extended. Given the number of abstracts that the SPC expects will be submitted, some participants that request an oral presentation will be assigned a poster; please consider indicating that a Lightning talk is an option during your abstract submittal process if it is the case.

2. Lightning presentations. Lightnings are a 5-minute fast-paced presentation requiring the presenter to focus on the essence of what they want to communicate. Slide shows are created with 20 slides and programmed to have the slides advance automatically every 15 seconds. (Need more time on a slide? Put the same slide in twice!). To keep pace with the timing of the traditional orals, two Lightnings will occur in a 15-minute time block, with 2 minutes for questions following each Lightning.

3. Poster presentations. Posters are an essential part of the scientific program. While most poster sessions will be closely linked to oral sessions, a limited number may be organized as a stand-alone session at the discretion of the session chair. Our goal is to provide high quality poster sessions that are equal to oral sessions in their ability to provide exposure, participation, and feedback.

One abstract submittal per person

Please note that the Federation has a one presentation per person policy. This means that each participant is permitted to be the **lead author or presenter on only one poster OR oral presentation**. You may be co-author on other presentations. This policy was adopted to ensure that Federation conference sessions contain contributions from as many people as possible.

Education Sessions

The conference limit of one first author oral or poster presentation per individual does not apply to the Education Sessions (listed below). The abstract fee will be waived for second abstracts submitted to these sessions.

If you intend to submit a second abstract in the Education category, please enter your scientific-focused abstract first. You will then be given an opportunity to enter your complimentary education abstract.

Eligible Education sessions include:

- *Artistic Pathways to Scientific Understanding*
- *Education Partnerships in Coastal and Marine Science*
- *Education: Creative Teaching to Improve Success for Marine-Focused Undergraduate Students*
- *Outreach and Engagement of our Estuaries, Coasts, and Oceans*

Cultural Heritage and Coastal Humanities (CH/CH) Sessions

We encourage abstracts that highlight cultural stewardship and the human dimensions of risk and change associated with coastal communities' heritage and economies. See the Cultural Heritage and Coastal Humanities Page for further details.

(<https://www.cerf.science/cultural-heritage-and-coastal-humanities>).

Presenter Confirmation/Cancellation Policy

The presenting author of accepted abstracts must confirm their participation by registering for the conference by 3 September 2019. For details, please see the Conference Presenter Cancellation policy (<https://www.cerf.science/cerf-2019-policies>).

Thank you in advance for your submission.

Questions/Support

Technical questions or concerns about your submission should be directed to Confex at cerf@confex.com. Questions or concerns related to the scientific program should be directed to CERF at info@cerf.science. Your inquiries will be sent to the proper person for response.

Conference Co-Chairs

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Jennifer Pollack, *Texas A&M University Corpus Christi*, Jennifer.Pollack@tamucc.edu

Student/Early Career Travel Award



Thinking about attending CERF 2019? Need assistance with travel? Apply for a Student/Early Career Travel Award! CERF is providing travel grants to support student and early-career members attending and presenting at CERF 2019 in Mobile, Alabama. Students and early-career professionals in need of financial assistance to attend the 2019 conference may request travel support from CERF's William E. Odum/Scott Nixon Memorial Fund for Student Activities. Awards typically range from \$150 to \$300 per person. Students can use this award as leverage to gain additional support from their academic department or employer. More information is forthcoming. Please check the [CERF website](http://www.cerf.science/cerf-2019)¹ for updates.

¹ www.cerf.science/cerf-2019

Student and Early Career Networking Event

Monday, 4 November 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Renaissance River View Hotel

Students, early career individuals, and panelists from a range of career disciplines who would like to participate in the Career Networking Event, please indicate your interest when registering for CERF 2019. If you have already registered and did not sign up for the event, please send your name, institution, and career level to CERF19CareerNetworking@gmail.com¹.

Join us for this popular networking event! Converse with faculty, professionals, post-docs, and other students while enjoying complimentary pizza* and beverages! Gather valuable information on various career options and make professional connections that may lead to job opportunities and future collaborations.

Participants will have the opportunity to chat with panelists from various coastal and estuarine science and management positions. Each career panelist will be sta-

tioned at a table, where students and recent graduates will join them to talk and ask questions. Then, after a set amount of time, students and early career individuals will switch tables to interact with a new career panelist. This will allow for conversations with several people from varied career paths, as well as interactions with your fellow peers!

Students and early-career individuals: Be sure to keep your calendar clear for this event. We request that you sign up to attend when you complete your registration for the conference online. Make sure to prepare some questions and bring business cards! Stay tuned for a list of panelists who will be in attendance.

Mid/Later-career individuals: Please consider signing up to be a panelist at this event when you register for the conference. Share your knowledge of careers, agencies, and institutions with tomorrow's leaders of the coastal and estuarine science and manage-

ment community.

Whether it is just for an evening function or for the duration of the conference, we encourage you to adopt the CERF tradition of volunteerism and commitment to education. Who knows, you may end up meeting a future collaborator in the process!

Hot Tip: BRING BUSINESS CARDS! (Ask your department if they will print these for you cost-free. And yes, even students can have business cards!). Also, when someone hands you their business card, on the back write down a few tidbits of who they are and something memorable about them...that way you'll remember them months after the conference when you go through your business cards.

There will be dairy-free and gluten-free food options. If you feel comfortable doing so, please send an email to CERF19CareerNetworking@gmail.com indicating any dietary restrictions so we can ensure that your needs are met.

¹ CERF19CareerNetworking@gmail.com

Debut of CERF Film Festival



CERF is pleased to announce that this year's meeting will include a film festival. Any member can submit a short video, and we encourage everyone to come to the film festival screening event during the November meeting in Mobile. Films should be six minutes or less and align with one of four categories: Research, Places, People, and Coastal Connections. Coastal Connections is a broad category that includes films addressing social or other topics highlighting a connection to the coast. One filmmaker from each category will win the prestigious CERF Film Festival Best in Category Award. This is a great opportunity to showcase your research or coastal system in a creative way. Now is the time to start planning and filming! Films can be submitted via www.wetransfer.com to [Jace Tunnell](mailto:Jace.Tunnell@utexas.edu)² by 1 September 2019. Feel free to email film festival co-chairs, [Jace](mailto:Jace.Tunnell@utexas.edu) or [Cassie Gurbisz](mailto:Cassie.Gurbisz@smcm.edu)³ with questions.

¹ www.wetransfer.com ² jace.tunnell@utexas.edu ³ cbgurbisz@smcm.edu

CERF the Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab during the conference



The public aquarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, the Estuarium, gives visitors a broader understanding of the interactions that take place in Mobile Bay, the fourth largest estuary system in the United States. You'll journey through coastal Alabama learning about the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta, Mobile Bay, the

Barrier Islands, and the northern Gulf of Mexico. Displays feature rarely seen marine animals native to these ecosystems. With more than 31 aquariums, you'll get up close with polka-dot batfish, sea-horses, octopus, diamondback turtles, hidden cup corals, and more. Exhibits not to miss are the Rays of the Bay touch tank,

the Living Boardwalk, and the Windows to the Sea. There's also a chance to see the regal damselfish, a non-native fish recently discovered in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Explore the Estuarium during the CERF2019 [Dauphin Island Field trip](#)¹ or plan your own trip at disl.org/estuarium.

¹ <https://www.cerf.science/2019-field-trips>

Best Things to Do in Mobile

The Biennial CERF conference is the place for cutting edge coastal science, networking, and community building, but it's also an opportunity to explore an interesting city with close friends and colleagues. Mobile is no exception, with a 300-year history and mixture of French, Spanish, British, Creole, Catholic, Greek and African legacies. Here are just some of Mobile highlights worth exploring:

[Fort Conde-Charlotte](#)
[GulfQuest National Maritime Museum](#)
[Richards DAR House Museum](#)
[USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park*](#)
[Mobile Museum of Art](#)
[Bellingrath Museum Home](#)
[Oakleigh Garden Historic District*](#)
[Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception](#)

[Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center](#)
[History Museum of Mobile*](#)
[De Tonti Square Historic District](#)
[Mobile Carnival Museum*](#)
[Mobile Medical Museum](#)
[Mobile Flea Market](#)
[Dauphin Street](#)
[Bragg-Mitchell Mansion](#)
[The Oyster Trail](#)
[Dauphin Island Sea Lab*](#)
[Condé-Charlotte Museum House](#)
[MoonPie General Store](#)
[Five Rivers Delta Resource Center*](#)

For more sites and a list of cultural events, check out [Visit Mobile](#)¹, [Mobile Run Down](#)² and [ModMobilian](#).

*These sites will be visited on CERF fieldtrips.

¹ <https://www.mobile.org> ² <https://www.themobilerundown.com>

CERF 2019 Sponsorship Opportunities

The CERF Biennial Conference attracts a highly educated crowd. These attendees are often recognized as community leaders and have significant influence and purchasing power in a variety of niche markets.

In 2017, more than 1,700 attendees came from every state in the US and from 30 countries, bringing a wide range of experience, expertise, and backgrounds to the conference. Your sponsorship message will reach this active and engaged audience, including academic researchers and students, as well as representatives from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

We hope you will take a moment to consider sponsoring this exciting educational event. The sponsorship prospectus and sponsor/exhibitor sign-up are available on our [website](https://www.cerf.science/2019-sponsor-exhibit)¹.

Current Sponsors

Bronze Sponsor: EPA

¹ <https://www.cerf.science/2019-sponsor-exhibit>



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