Special Interest Meetings

Monday, March 30, 2015 8:30 to 11:30 AM

Innovative Approaches in Coastal and Ocean Data Portals

A variety of users rely on coastal and ocean data to support marine planning and state and local decision-making processes. To meet this need, many federal, state, and local atlases, portals, and catalogs have emerged. The data content in these systems ranges from data clearinghouses to regionally based and topic-specific sources. While each effort has its own unique purpose and audience, there are many opportunities to leverage experience, expertise, and data across regions and between regional and national systems. The session will provide participants with a general "lay of the land" for existing coastal and ocean data portals, demonstrate innovative approaches, and present an opportunity to discuss areas for collaboration and sharing.

Exploring the Application of Digital Coast Tools for Enhancing Floodplain Management and Community Rating System Participation

In 2012 the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act (BW-12) was enacted to change the way the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) operates and to raise flood insurance premium rates to reflect true flood risk, as well as to make the program more financially stable. The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 repeals and modifies certain provisions of the BW-12 but still aims to increase rates annually at a slower pace, beginning on April 1, 2015, to eventually reflect true flood risk. These changes have led to increased interest in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS). This voluntary incentive program recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements and results in discounted flood insurance premiums to reflect the reduced flood risk. The session will explore how Digital Coast partners, CRS communities, and communities seeking to participate in the CRS program, can work together to improve floodplain management, lessen flood risks, and lower flood insurance rates.

Linking Land Cover to Water Quality Using OpenNSPECT

Nonpoint source pollution and erosion affect water quality within a watershed and receiving waters. Slope, precipitation, soil characteristics, and land cover determine runoff volume, pollutant loads, and sediment yield. OpenNSPECT, the open-source version of the Nonpoint Source Pollution and Erosion Comparison Tool, is a water quality screening tool that evaluates these spatial variables to identify potential sources of pollution and erosion and predict the effect of land cover changes. The tool provides watershed managers with a way to visualize and compare estimates of the impact of proposed land use changes.

Monday, March 30, 2015 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Participatory Mapping: Engaging Communities in Resource Planning and Management
Community engagement is an essential component of effective coastal and marine resource planning at any scale. Participatory mapping applies geospatial tools to collect invaluable local knowledge and identify important coastal and ocean spaces, giving communities a voice in the planning process. This session will demonstrate the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's participatory mapping process, explore how participatory mapping works to empower communities and capture local perspectives on place, and discuss the advantages and challenges of participatory mapping efforts through an interactive, workshop-style special interest meeting.

Mapping the Coast: Elevation, Inundation, and Frequency
This special interest meeting will consist of minimal lecture time and focus on live mapping demonstrations of best practices and considerations for mapping coastal inundation. The meeting will provide the "So, how do you do it?" answer to many technical questions related to mapping inundation. A brief introductory presentation will provide an overview of many Office for Coastal Management products and services that use the same spatial tools and technical methodologies. Next, the presenter will address downloading lidar data, post-processing data for coastal mapping uses, and making high-quality digital elevation models. Following will be a discussion on how to create tidal surfaces representing tidal variability using the National Geodetic Survey's VDatum tool. Finally, the meeting will address how to map different types of inundation. Questions and answers to technical topics will be incorporated into the demos to provide immediate feedback and discussion for participants.

Building an OpenNSPECT Database for your Watershed
OpenNSPECT, the open-source version of the Nonpoint Source Pollution and Erosion Comparison Tool, uses spatial elevation data to calculate flow direction and flow accumulation throughout a watershed. To do this, land cover, precipitation, and soils data are processed to estimate runoff volume at both the local and watershed levels. These input data are from nationally standardized sources available online. This special interest meeting will help participants step through the process of identifying, acquiring, and processing input data for their specific watersheds. The goal is to build an OpenNSPECT database and simulate the application for each participant.