

Additional Resources

The USDA, through NIFA, offers competitive grant programs in environmental sciences that support outreach activities. Information about the NIWQP is available at <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/waterqualityicgp.cfm>. Examples of funded outreach and

integrated research, education, and outreach projects from the NIWQP are available at <http://www.usawaterquality.org>. Young faculty interested in funding for similar outreach activities in air quality, invasive species, and managed ecosystems can also obtain additional information at <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri.html>.

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MEETINGS

Coastal Altimetry Progresses Toward Applications

Third Coastal Altimetry Workshop, European Space Agency; Frascati, Italy, 17–18 September 2009

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Recognizing that coastal ocean observing systems would benefit from enhanced satellite altimetry, a first coastal altimetry workshop, held in Silver Spring, Md., in February 2008, charted the course to promote its use in the coastal zone (see W. H. Smith et al., *Eos*, 89(40), 380, 2008). A second workshop, hosted in Pisa, Italy, in November 2008, confirmed the rapid progress made in the field (see J. Benveniste and S. Vignudelli, *Eos*, 90(26), 225, 2009), especially by projects such as COASTALT (Development of Radar Altimetry Data Processing in the Coastal Zone), funded by the European Space Agency (ESA), and PISTACH (Prototype Innovant de Système de Traitement Pour les Applications Côtières et l'Hydrologie), funded by Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES), France.

The Third Coastal Altimetry Workshop, hosted by ESA with support from CNES, the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton (United Kingdom), the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

(Italy), was designed to review the latest advances in retrieving altimeter data in the coastal zone and to strengthen the links between the coastal altimetry community and the wider range of users. The workshop attracted 86 attendees representing about 20 countries on six continents.

The first recommendation from the workshop is that the community should develop local solutions driven by local requirements. For instance, some areas have large tides or a complex coastline, or they will be more affected by sea level rise. However, no problems that apply in one case are unique to that single case.

The second recommendation from the workshop is that coastal altimetry requires global sharing of expertise as well as global products. The coastal altimetry community needs to integrate many local solutions into a global approach to building a global coastal zone product, which will eventually become finely tuned for every local coastal area. This process will require active international collaboration and a continuation of this series of workshops as well as specific capacity-building

activities. Such activities are needed to remove the impression that altimeter data cannot be used in coastal regions and to replace this impression with a more complete understanding of the capabilities of altimeter data, both alone and in combination with other sources of data and modeling tools.

Participants also agreed that data from next-generation altimeters (especially synthetic aperture radar/delay-Doppler and possibly Ka-band) should be analyzed as soon as they become available (in early 2010) to validate appropriate processing methods adapted to the new observation techniques of these instruments.

Finally, the participants recommended the continuation of initiatives such as PISTACH and COASTALT, aiming at the development and distribution of coastal altimetry products from satellites including Jason 1 and 2, TOPEX/POSEIDON, European Remote Sensing (ERS) 1 and 2, and Envisat as well as associated documentation.

The workshop agenda, including presentations, and a full report, including findings and recommendations, can be found at <http://www.coastalt.eu>. A summary of the report can be also found in the electronic supplement to this *Eos* issue (http://www.egu.org/eos_elec/).

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Working Toward a Common Strategy for U.K. Sediment Transport Research

U.K. Sediment Initiative 2009: Developing Multidisciplinary Sediment Dynamics Research in a Strategic Context; Liverpool, United Kingdom, 27–29 April 2009

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A workshop funded by the U.K. Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) brought together U.K.-based researchers, stakeholders, and policy makers with an interest in sediment processes to foster collaborative links and to help NERC theme leaders develop future Theme Action Plans (TAPs). This could be achieved only by identifying gaps in knowledge and prioritizing research needs toward formulating a U.K. sediment transport research strategy. More

than 50 participants from NERC research and collaborative centers, U.K. higher education institution researchers, industry consultants, and government departments and agencies attended the workshop.

The workshop was divided into three parts. First, in an introduction, guest speakers discussed the importance of sediment transport from different perspectives. The speakers included Darius Campbell (U.K. Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs) on policy drivers, Richard Whitehouse (HR Wallingford, Ltd.) and

David Lambkin (ABPMer, Ltd.) on industry needs, John Rees (NERC theme leader) on the NERC TAPs and possible funding opportunities, Alan Davies (University of Bangor) on the academic research perspective, and Chris Sherwood (U.S. Geological Survey) on international insight on large sediment transport projects and on developments of the U.S. National Community Sediment Transport Model project. Second, in a series of breakout sessions, participants considered the stakeholders' needs, the different dynamic areas of the coastal ocean, and the process time scales. Third, the workshop group discussed possible funding streams and ways to better formulate a concerted research plan for presentation to funding bodies.

The main outcome of the meeting was agreement on the evident need to prioritize research on sediment pathways, effects of cohesive and mixed sediments,