



SERPPAS Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation Work Group Call Summary

February 14, 2022; 2pm ET

Theme and Speakers

South Carolina Coastal Resilience Efforts

- Barbara Neale (nealeb@dhec.sc.gov) – Senior Program Analyst in the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management of the SC Department of Health & Environmental Control
- Alex Butler (alex.butler@scor.sc.gov) – Resilience Planning Director of the SC Office of Resilience

Materials

[Meeting Recording](#)

[SC DHEC OCRM Presentation](#)

[SCOR Presentation](#)

Discussion

- Welcome & Speaker Introduction – Michelle Covi, Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison/Work Group Lead
 - Next in CRRAWG’s deep dive into resilience efforts across the states is South Carolina. The group heard from Barbara Neale, Senior Program Analyst in the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management of the SC Department of Health & Environmental Control (and SERPPAS Steering Committee Member) and Alex Butler, Resilience Planning Director of the SC Office of Resilience.
- SC Coastal Program Update & Opportunities: Barbara Neale, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management of the SC Department of Health & Environmental Control
 - The SC Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) began in 1972 with the enactment of the Coastal Zone Management Act establishing guidelines for state Coastal Management Programs. In South Carolina, the SC Coastal Tidelands and Wetlands Act passed in 1977 giving OCRM authority.
 - OCRM has two types of authorities: direct permitting authority within critical areas and indirect certification authority in the eight coastal counties.
 - The indirect certification authority gives OCRM the ability to review federal actions to ensure they comply with state regulations.
 - The direct permitting authority covers coastal tidelands, coastal waters, beaches, and beach/dune system areas.
 - The purpose of coastal regulations is to help protect coastal resources, including sites that are manmade and historically and coastally significant areas.



- The bulk of direct permitting OCRM does is in dock permitting, both community docks and marinas. Dock permitting looks at whether the dock meets the waterfront definition, dock alignment, dock size tied to creek size, and limit to no more than 1,000 feet in dock length.
- OCRM permits erosion control structures and does not allow for hard erosion structures on beaches and beach/dune systems, allowing for resiliency of the beaches' structures. In coastal tidelands and coastal waters where marshes are not an adequate buffer, OCRM does allow bulkheads and revetments. It also regulates dredging activities of commercial/industrial approaches/channels and public/private marina slips and basins.
- SC manages the beachfront through two jurisdictional lines – the baseline and the setback line. The baseline is the more seaward line, and the setback line is more landward, set based on erosion rate. These lines are reviewed every 7 to 10 years, and OCRM is required to come up with a long-term erosion rate. The baseline line is set based on the crest of the primary oceanfront sand dune or at the most landward position of the shoreline if no dune feature exists. The setback line is set based on 40 times the erosion rate. The distance between the baseline and the setback line will always be at least 20 feet but often much greater.
- When considering major beach/inlet project, OCRM looks at sediment compatibility including grain size, color, and quality; selection of offshore borrow areas; pre- and post-project monitoring; and threatened and endangered species proximity.
- SC Office of Resilience – Overview and Priorities: Alex Butler, Resilience Planning Director
 - The SC Office of Resilience (SCOR) was established by the SC Disaster Relief and Recovery Act in 2022. As of March 2021, SC now has a Chief Resilience Officer. SCOR was tasked to develop and implement the Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan (Resilience Plan) by July 2022.
 - SC defines resilience as the ability of communities, economies, and ecosystems within South Carolina to anticipate, absorb, recover, and thrive when presented with environmental change and natural hazards.
 - SCOR is looking at SC's hydrological footprint and how it affects surrounding states regardless of boundaries. SC coastal county populations continue to grow, and SCOR is planning for that explosive growth.
 - SCOR's current activities include:
 - Working with the Advisory Committee to identify vulnerabilities and examine possible solutions to hazards
 - Partnering with the University of South Carolina, SC Climate Office, and SC Sea Grant to develop a state specific climate assessment
 - Pursuing update of NOAA Atlas 14 Curve Numbers
 - Identifying areas for conservation important to flood mitigation and co-benefits
 - Acquiring First Streets Flood Data to quantify flood risk statewide
 - SCOR's Conservation Priority Maps identify areas in the state that are important for flood protection and which portions should be conserved to reduce flood waters.
 - Statewide: all undeveloped flood prone areas identified in future condition from the First Streets data set
 - Non-coastal areas: areas that are flood prone and where flooding originates
 - Coastal non-tidal: areas outside of DHEC's Critical Coastal Area



- Coastal tidal: areas within DHEC's Critical Coastal Area
- SCOR is currently undergoing a public survey for citizens to report flooding, allowing SCOR to forecast potential flood areas. SCOR is also working with NOAA and other state partners to update decades-old rainfall numbers. Local governments have also been instructed to incorporate resilience into comprehensive plans so SCOR is developing guidance to assist with that.
- Q&A and Discussion
 - Does the SCOR process coordinate with the Low Country military installation review process
 - SCOR has not been in contact with Low Country but has with the Midlands, trying to coordinate efforts, identify co-benefits, finalize maps, and identify priority areas
 - How does the SCOR office coordinate with SC Emergency Management Division?
 - EMD is on SCOR's advisory group
- SERPPAS Updates – Addie Thornton
 - Spring 2022 Steering Committee Meeting in March 2022 in Atlanta, GA
 - 2022 Principals Meeting in May 2022 in Beaufort, NC, with a coastal resilience focus
- South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative
 - Registration information has been sent out for the SASMI workshop on March 28th-April 1st.
 - Sent out a request for quick video snippets of SASMI areas to show at the workshop to highlight the diverse coalition.
 - Working to identify the writing team for the conservation plan.

The next work group meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2022, at 2pm EST.