National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Network

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Panel Session
Innovative Solutions to Data and Information Needs

From Stem to Stern II
Clearwater Beach, FL
May 17, 2012
Working Waterways & Waterfronts 2007
Norfolk, Virginia, May 10, 2007

The Working Waterways and Waterfronts National Symposium on Water Access 2010
Portland, Maine, September 27-30, 2010

Third National Working Waterfront and Waterways Symposium
Tacoma Washington, March 2013
What is it?

A nationwide community of practice

Individuals and organizations, public and private
government, industry, academia

In its formative stage as an organization. . .

Steering committee, working groups, membership, etc.

Its presence will be web-based

Work is well underway. . .
Mission
Increase the capacity of coastal communities and stakeholders to make informed decisions, balance diverse uses, ensure access and plan for the future of their working waterfronts and waterways.

Objectives

• Cooperate on research and educational outreach
  • Provide access to historical, economic, financial and policy information
  • Maintain and strengthen a diverse network of partners.
The Issues, e.g.,

- Overcrowding due to population growth
- Displacement of traditional water-dependent uses by high-value residential and commercial uses.
- Costs of maintaining water access
- User conflicts
- Loss of commercial and recreational access
- Loss of maritime heritage
Promoting Sustainable Working Waterfronts: A Toolkit for Community and Economic Development Practitioners

Grant from US DOC, Economic Development Administration

- Island Institute
- Urban Harbors Institute, Univ. of Massachusetts Boston
- Florida Sea Grant and Food and Resource Economics Dept., UF
- National Sea Grant Law Center, Univ. of Mississippi
- Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
- Virginia Sea Grant, VIMS, College of William and Mary
- Maine Sea Grant, Univ. of Maine

September 2011-September 2012
Historic Changes and Current Trends
Lead: Urban Harbors Institute, Univ. of Massachusetts Boston

• Historical changes of working waterfronts: uses and economic importance.
  National and regional scales
• Drivers (including stressors) of change
• Assessment of the changing complexion and perspectives
Economic Value of Working Waterfronts

Lead: University of Florida

- Define working waterfront economic activities
- Identify water-dependent communities
- Regional economic impact of these communities (I/O analysis)
  
  Northeast Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Eastern Gulf of Mexico, Western Gulf of Mexico, California, Pacific Northwest, Great Lakes, Alaska, Hawaii

- Forecast of future economic activity in WD communities
  
  10-year (2011-2020) based on status quo and alternative economic development scenarios
Policy and Legal Tools

Lead: Sea Grant Law Center, University of Mississippi

- Waterfront planning
- Land use regulations
- Historic preservation laws
- State and local tax policies
- Easements
- Policies and tools to alleviate blight and promote redevelopment
- Model legislation, ordinances, plan language
- Working waterfront Pro Bono network
Financing Mechanisms to Support Implementation

**Lead: Coastal Enterprises, Inc.**

- Federal and state:
  - Tax incentives
  - Grants
  - Loans
  - Dedicated revenue
- Nonprofit initiatives
  - Advocacy, foundations, private sources
Outreach and Education and Web Portal

*Leads: Maine Sea Grant and Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program*

- Developing 20 case studies from around the country to illustrate issues, challenges, responses and successes
- Adapted an existing website [http://www.wateraccessus.com](http://www.wateraccessus.com) to make the reports, data, information, case studies available to public
- Website will have a social networking component to enable interaction and sharing.
For more information about the National Working Waterfront Network

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Or go to website:

www.wateraccesssus.com