



Sentinel Site Cooperative and Coastal Reserve hosts NOAA Tools Training

The N.C. Sentinel Site Cooperative collaborated with the N.C. Coastal Reserve & National Estuarine Research Reserve's Coastal Training Program to host a "NOAA Tools Training" at the NOAA Beaufort Laboratory in October 2017. The training directly addressed a need identified at the February 2017 N.C. Sentinel Site Cooperative Partners Meeting, which brought stakeholders together to collaboratively enhance the resilience of the Cooperative's geography to sea level rise and flooding.



"The goal of the Cooperative is to leverage resources and integrate efforts across organizations within the sentinel site region to provide better information to stakeholders to make informed decisions," says Rebecca Ellin, program manager of the N.C. Reserve. "The NOAA Tools Training helped participants better understand NOAA's tools and data available to address the challenges associated with sea level rise and coastal inundation."

Adam Bode of NOAA's Office for Coastal Management provided participants with an overview of resources available through NOAA's Digital Coast. Hands-on experience with tools including the Sea Level Rise Viewer and the Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper and demonstrations using land-cover data provided in-depth experience with these resources. The 60 participants included representatives from federal, state, and local governments, real estate professionals, university researchers, and engineers and consultants from the private sector.

The diverse participation in the training, level of engagement of the participants, and positive reviews of the training demonstrate the need was addressed. Ninety-five percent of participants who completed the evaluation indicated that the training was a good use of their time. One evaluation respondent shared the following when asked how one would see evidence of application of the content in future work or decisions: "The tools will be helpful in the update of the Town's Strategic Plan as well as the current Resiliency Evaluation and Needs Assessment which is being conducted by [NC's NOAA Coastal Fellow]." Another evaluation respondent shared that the most valuable thing gained from the training was "Learning about the tools that we could use in future planning with living on the coast. This program applies to my work and assist with monitoring different topics like sea level rise and how it would affect wildlife management at the park."

The report from the Partners Meeting is available as a NOAA Technical Memorandum located here: <http://bit.ly/2zpzLMJ>