What's going on?
What is the National Integrated Drought Information System doing in the Carolinas?

Lisa Darby¹,²,
Kirstin Dow³, Kirsten Lackstrom³, Amanda Brennan³
Paul Conrads⁴

¹NOAA/NIDIS Program Office
²NOAA/ESRL/Physical Sciences Division
³Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessment
⁴USGS, South Carolina Water Science Center
National Integrated Drought Information System

NIDIS

Outline

• What is NIDIS?
• Carolinas Coastal Ecosystems Drought Early Warning Information System
  • What we’re currently working on
  • What we’d like to be working on in the future
  • What drought information…
    • do you need?
    • could you contribute?
What is NIDIS?

- Established by Public Law 109-430 (The NIDIS Act of 2006), which was reauthorized by Congress in March, 2014!
- Multi-agency program
- Drought early warning
- Drought research
- Drought outlooks (regional and national)
- www.drought.gov

"Enable the Nation to move from a reactive to a more proactive approach to managing drought risks and impacts"
NIDIS Carolinas Coastal Ecosystems
Drought Early Warning Information System

Kirstin Dow
Kirsten Lackstrom
Amanda Brennan

http://www.cisa.sc.edu/
Speaker presentations to discuss implications of drought in coastal ecosystems

World Café style breakout sessions to brainstorm pilot project ideas

Participants used the Turning Technologies Audience Response System to vote for pilot project ideas

The original 4 projects
  • Drought indicators & indices
  • Seafood safety
  • Drought forecasting
  • Drought impact reporting

Updates
Evaluation of Drought Indicators & Indices

Project Goals

• Investigate the benefits and feasibility of creating a drought index based on real-time salinity data (Conrads)
• Relate coastal drought index to impacts (Tufford)
• Funding for “Assessment of Drought Indicators for Coastal Zone Fire Risk” (Boyles)
• Funding for “Forecasting S.C. Blue Crab Fishery using Real-time Freshwater Flow Data” (Childress)
• Determine which current drought indicators and indices are appropriate for assessing drought in coastal ecosystems
• Collaborate with work being done on the North American Drought Indices and Definitions Study

Development of a salinity index based on real-time USGS data – Paul Conrads USGS
To improve understanding of drought impacts in coastal ecosystems and connect with decision makers.

Project Components:

- Citizen science ‘condition monitoring’ through the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow (CoCoRaHS) network
- Interviews with local business owners, commercial and recreation fishermen, and land/resource managers
- Project report is underway (CISA)
- Re-evaluate pilot goals based on what was learned in the interviews
Original Project Goal

- Provide an early warning system for commercial, recreational and subsistence fishermen who harvest drought-sensitive seafood in both fresh and salt waters in the coastal regions of the Carolinas
  - Vibrio – contaminates shellfish
  - HABs
  - “Drought buster” events
  - Outreach
Drought Forecasting Communications

Original Project Goals

• Introduce stakeholders to current products used for drought forecasting, step them through the process of how a drought outlook is prepared, and educate them on the caveats and uncertainties in the outlook

• Ascertain what additional drought forecasting products stakeholders need and what time scales are of most interest to them
NIDIS Carolinas Coastal Ecosystem
Drought Early Warning Pilot

- Evaluation of drought indicators & indices
- Drought impact reporting/condition reporting
  - Public health and water quality
  - Drought forecasting communications

Thoughts, ideas, comments?
Thank you
Lisa Darby (lisa.darby@noaa.gov)