

Coastal Synthesis Workshop: Coastal Synthesis Workshop - December 11-12, 2010

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Coastal Synthesis Objectives and Outcomes

The contribution of coastal margins to regional and global carbon budgets is not well understood, largely due to limited information about the magnitude, spatial distribution, and interannual variability of carbon sources and sinks in coastal waters. The [Ocean Carbon & Biogeochemistry \(OCB\) Program](#) has been collaborating with the [North American Carbon Program \(NACP\)](#) over the past two years to develop a [Coastal Interim Synthesis Activity](#) as part of the [NACP Interim Synthesis activities](#), the goals of which are to bring together relevant observations, data, and modeling efforts in an effort to identify and quantify key sources, sinks, stocks, fluxes, and associated processes in the North American carbon budget.

The objective of the Coastal Interim Synthesis Activity is to stimulate the synthesis of observational and modeling results on carbon cycle fluxes and processes along the North American continental margins. This activity has been divided geographically into five regions:

- East Coast
- West Coast
- Gulf of Mexico
- Arctic
- Great Lakes

With support from the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science program and its affiliated agencies, this national activity is expected to yield opportunities for interested PIs to consider coordinated responses to agency research announcements as research and modeling needs and priorities are identified. To facilitate the level of coordination and collaboration required for such an extensive activity, regional leaders and members of the OCB and NACP offices are convening a community workshop.

We are pleased to announce the first Coastal Interim Synthesis workshop, which took place December 11-12, 2010, just before the 2010 Fall AGU meeting in San Francisco, CA.

The goals of this workshop were to gather active members of the coastal research community to:

- Identify existing datasets, publications and ongoing studies that could contribute to the development of regional coastal carbon budgets (and ultimately archived in a community database)
- Determine the fluxes and processes that should be included in regional carbon budgets and associated models to ensure consistency and inter-comparability

The final outcome of the Coastal Interim Synthesis Activity will be a science plan for coastal ocean carbon and related biogeochemical research that identifies knowledge gaps and ranks research priorities to guide relevant program (e.g., NACP, OCB, etc.) and agency activities and initiatives. Depending on community interest, we may also pursue a special issue on regional coastal carbon budgets and associated processes in a relevant journal. We anticipate a follow-on workshop in Summer 2011.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of NASA to convene this workshop.



[U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program](#)



[North American Carbon Program](#)



[Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry Project](#)

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