

**Fall Meeting of RISA Principal Investigators:**  
***Revisiting What RISAs Do***

Hosted by NOAA's Climate and Societal Interactions Program (CSI)  
September 29 – October 1, 2010  
The Latham Hotel  
3000 M St. NW  
Washington, DC  
<http://www.thelatham.com/>

**Wednesday, September 29, 2010 - Day 1 - Process**

**Objectives –**

- Review current and future objectives for RISA program including role in climate services
- Refine functional description of RISAs to increase visibility and institutional support
- Explore state of decision support research through the eyes of RISAs and other climate service developers/providers supported by NOAA

8:30 – 8:45 am - **Welcome and Opening Remarks** – Chet Koblinsky, NOAA

8:45 – 9:15 am - **RISA Program - Past, Present, and Future** – Adam Parris, NOAA

9:15 – 10:30 am - **Meet and Greet** – RISA teams

10:30 am – 12:00 pm - **Maintaining Regional Focus** – Eileen Shea, NOAA

“From global to local” is a phrase that NOAA employs to describe its science and service mission, in part to implicitly connect the global processes understood by science to the local decisions that resource managers and other stakeholders have to make. The RISA program has made significant contributions to NOAA science in this respect by investigating regionally significant patterns and problems that constrain decision makers. Over time, the demand for RISAs increases in any given region presenting challenges to RISAs who want to investigate new patterns and problems while still answering the needs of their stakeholders. During this session, we will explore the following questions:

- How do RISAs fit within the NOAA regional enterprise in the context of a NOAA Climate Service?
- How do partnerships and stakeholder relationships at the local level support regionally integrated science and assessment?
- What service capacity is lacking within NOAA that would relieve stress on the RISAs?

12:00 – 1:00 pm - **Lunch**

1:00 – 5:00 pm - **Climate and Society Sessions:**

The following three sessions are designed to facilitate detailed discussions of RISA functions and objectives to support discussion of roles and responsibilities for RISAs in supporting the NOAA Climate Service and regional adaptation.

1:00 – 2:00 pm - **Climate and Society: Co-Developing Knowledge** – Adam Parris NOAA

With support from NOAA grants, RISA investigators have been pioneering “co-developed/usable/decision support” research for 15 years. NOAA and the community of RISA investigators have a strong sense of “lessons learned” for successful decision support research. However, many academic institutions, decision makers, and members of society are unaware of or unclear on what “co-developed/usable/decision support” is. This lack of recognition places pressures RISA investigators and other researchers who tackle real world problems to maintain essentially two different paths of research. NOAA’s ability to increase recognition of “co developed/usable/decision support” research, to provide clarity on the objectives of the RISA program, and to inspire additional financial support for RISA-like activities could be enhanced by defining, in simple terms and with simple graphics, a conceptual framework for this burgeoning field. Over a series of sessions, we will synthesize “lessons learned” starting with the following questions:

- What are your 3 biggest challenges in maintaining your role as a boundary entity (i.e. an “honest broker”)?
- What are the key aspects of your RISA program structure and process that support co-development or co-production?
- What can we learn from other fields of science that interact with society?
- What essential elements in the “co-development” or “co-production” process could be standardized and what should remain diverse?

2:00 – 2:30 pm - **Break**

2:30 – 3:30 pm - **Climate and Society: Establishing trust relationships** – Caitlin Simpson NOAA

Relationships between scientists and decision makers are essential for the co-development or co-production of knowledge. These relationships take time to develop and can be initiated in diverse ways. Over time, as usable science is produced, the relationship can change from an exploratory or

development mode to a service provider or consultative mode. Within the context of a competitive 5-year R&D effort, how do/will RISAs manage the following scientist-stakeholder relationship issues?

- What is the range of methods for initiating and then maintaining stakeholder relationships? How do RISAs balance existing stakeholder relationship needs with building new relationships?
- How long or extensive must interactions be before information becomes salient or usable? Do certain relationships take more time and/or require different approaches?
- What kinds of decisions require what kinds of relationships? How do they vary depending on the decision making framework (e.g., regional/state level policy, long-term planning of natural or built resources, shorter term operations, warnings/alerts, outreach for public awareness/literacy)?
- How closely connected are scientists and stakeholders throughout the relationship?
- How will the nature of these relationships change as RISAs address a range of adaptation options? How far should RISAs go in terms of engaging decision makers on identifying adaptation options?
- How do/will RISAs manage relationships with users in an environment of conflicting demands on resources (e.g., water, land, fish) and conflicting interests in policy outcomes?

3:30 – 4:00 pm - **Break**

4:00 – 5:00 pm - **Climate & Society: Transitioning Knowledge** – Sarah Abdelrahim NOAA

RISAs are facing increasing demand for climate information from all of their regional, state, and local stakeholders. This demand increases the pressure to play a quasi-operational or operational role, which complicates the experimental or “learning by doing” objective of the program. While RISAs themselves have been able to provide some of these services, there are also successful stories of transitioning research to other entities with greater operational capacities (e.g., RCCs). Furthermore, as the scope of RISA services and activities expands, the definition of “transition” could be broadened beyond the focus on tools or products to services. In this session, we will discuss how service provision can be better accomplished through more efficient transition processes by exploring the following questions:

- How should “transition” be defined and what types of RISA activities involve transition?
  - Does transition involve new research to already existing applications or solely newly developed products to operations?
  - Does transition play a role in education and training activities?

- What entities are best equipped to provide climate services?
  - What is the extent of “service” that should be provided by the RISAs?
  - What role should Regional Climate Centers, extension agencies, etc. play?
  - What is the role of government, academia, NGOs, and private sector?
  - Is there a gap in the capacity of institutions to provide services?
  
- How can science and service developers best collaborate with science and service providers to facilitate transition?
  - What are the costs and benefits of privatization of products and services versus equitable access to products and services?
  - At what point do service providers need to be involved and to what extent?
  - At what point in product development is it best to establish a transition plan?
  - With scientific and technological advancements, how can updates to existing products and services best take place and who should take responsibility?

5:00 – 5:15 pm - **Wrap Up and Logistics**

7 – 9 pm – **Reception - Citronelle**

## **Thursday, September 30, 2010 - Day 2 - Assessment**

### **Objectives –**

- Coordinate regional assessment service activities in support of the National Climate assessment across NOAA Regional Enterprise Partners
- To review examples of cross-RISA interactions and key lessons learned (specifically with respect to collaborating) and share best practices for collaborating on projects
- To develop strategies to support the cross-comparison and synthesis of research findings for both sectoral assessment and stakeholder engagement

9:00 – 10:00 am - **National Climate Assessment 2013** – Kathy Jacobs, OSTP

Kathy Jacobs (OSTP) will present the strategy for the National Climate Assessment with an update on the process. She will then lead a discussion panel with representatives from NOAA to set the context for the day. Topics on the panel will include:

- NOAA Assessment Services – Anne Waple, NOAA - NCDC
- RISA Roles – Adam Parris, NOAA - CPO
- Regional projections – Don Anderson, NOAA – CPO & Rickie Rood GLISA

The remainder of the day will be devoted to “Cross Comparison and Synthesis of RISA Assessment Services activities.” The following breakout sessions and discussion topics have been co-planned by the Southeast Climate Consortium (SECC), the Consortium for Climate Risk in the Urban Northeast (CCRUN), Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA) and the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) RISAs

10:00 – 10:30 am – **Overview** – Sarah Trainor (ACCAP)

10:30 – 10:40 am – **Charge to Breakout Groups** – Radely Horton (CCRUN)

10:40 – 12:00 pm – **Breakout Session #1** – Lessons learned on collaboration

Each group will discuss examples of sector-based cross-RISA research, including stakeholder engagement. The general question posed before each group will be:

- What have been the successes and challenges of collaborative projects, and why?

[Note: Facilitators can organize a break with their groups]

Groups will be organized by the following sectors:

- Agriculture (Norman Breuer)
- Urban Areas (Cynthia Rosenzweig)
- Water management (Phil Mote)
- Coasts (Lynne Carter)

12:00 – 12:30 pm – **Report back and discussion**

12:30 – 1:30 pm – **Lunch**

1:30 – 2:15 pm – **Assessment Services Projects 2010 – 2011**

Each RISA and the RCCs will have ~ 2-3 minutes to summarize their Assessment Services activities. James Hocker (SCIPP) will facilitate.

2:15 – 2:25 pm – **Charge to group**

2:25 – 3:30 pm – **Breakout Session #2 - Assessment Services Collaboration**

During breakout sessions, groups will discuss collaboration on a number of

activities to ensure effective contribution to the National Climate Assessment.

Among other questions, groups will discuss:

- What is the best way to share research literature on stakeholder engagement and develop common research questions?
- Should our teams collect any common sets of information, or is this even feasible given the different nature of the projects? Do you feel this would be beneficial?
- If collecting some common data – what should those be?
- How could we successfully coordinate?

[Note: Facilitators can organize a break with their groups]

Groups will be organized by the following sectors:

- Surveys & interviews (incl. social network analysis) – Mark Shafer
- Focus groups / town halls / community meetings – Lynne Carter
- Public presentations / webinars – David Bidwell
- Inventories & databases of stakeholder needs and strategies – Tom Dietz

3:30 – 4:00 pm – **Report back and discussion**

4:00 – 5:00 pm – **Looking ahead**

During the last session, we will re-convene the workshop. Topics of discussion will include:

- Tools/Infrastructure – Shared web space, calendars, and conferencing tools
- Reporting requirements for the National Climate Assessment
- Potential areas for further research in FY 2011.

## **Friday, October 1, 2010 - Day 3 - Partnerships**

### **Objectives –**

- Support regional, inter-agency partnerships among regional groups engaging in science, service, adaptation, and mitigation

7:30 – 10:00 am - **Looking ahead for RISAs** – RISA PIs and NOAA Program Management

This session will reserve time for the RISA PIs and NOAA Program Management to discuss the insights and issues arising from the previous three days. The topics for discussion will remain open to develop questions and a rough agenda over the course of the meeting, but might include:

- Institutional opportunities and constraints for supporting RISAs

- NOAA's expectations for the next 5 years
- RISA expectations for the next 5 years

10:00 – 10:30 am - **Break**

10:30 am – 12:30 pm - **NOAA Regional Climate Service Enterprise & RISAs** – Eileen Shea, NOAA

As NOAA moves forward with developing a climate service, it will strive to integrate the climate-related activities within its own distributed offices (CPO, NCDC, Coastal Services Center (CSC)) and among its close external partners (RISAs, RCCs, State Climatologists, National Weather Service/Climate Services Division, NWS/Climate Prediction Center, and Sea Grant). This session will provide an opportunity to discuss priorities for regional science and services and to improve coordination between internal and external entities. In keeping with coordination of activities, NOAA's Regional Climate Service Directors will be on hand to contribute to these discussions and discuss their role moving forward. Among other things, discussion questions might include:

- What are the key functions of regional science and services?
- How do we manage stakeholder expectations and fatigue?
- How do we provide balanced services with different partners in different regions?

12:30 – 1:00 pm - **Lunch**

1:00 – 3:00 pm - **Regional Climate Adaptation – Networking networks**

DOC (NOAA regional partners) and DOI (Climate Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives) are both engaged in regional climate science and service in support of both adaptation and mitigation. The DOC and DOI groups are forming partnerships in each region, and it is important to coordinate these science and service activities.

To briefly set the context, an overview of the DOI-DOC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be provided including some of the topics being considered for implementing agreements. Each group from each agency (RISA, RCC, SC, CSC, LCC, Sea Grant, etc.) will provide input on the best way to achieve regional collaboration for climate service and adaptation (~2-3 minutes each).