



Center for the Blue Economy Promoting Ocean and Coastal Sustainability

“As the oceans go, so goes the world.” Right now the oceans are in crisis due to over-exploitation, degradation, and the multiple threats from climate change. The Center for the Blue Economy’s (CBE) mission is to reverse this course and promote ocean and coastal sustainability. We do this by focusing on the economic contributions of the oceans and coasts to human welfare, as well as the current economic drivers that undermine ocean health.

By demonstrating the interdependence of a strong economy and a healthy ocean, the center aims to make stewarding the “blue economy” a top global priority.

The CBE’s research program is anchored by the National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP). Funded for more than a decade by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA), state governments, and foundations, NOEP’s methodologies have become the standard for countries around the world seeking to estimate the economic value of their ocean and coastal resources. NOEP’s public access databases provide information to thousands of users a year and are often described as invaluable to their work. The team continues to add new datasets as needs arise. NOEP receives numerous requests from all quarters after extreme events, such as the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill or Hurricane Sandy, to help estimate the economic costs.

In 2014, the CBE is launching the online Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics to bring together the best minds and leaders in this fast-growing field. An annual invitation-only symposium to complement the main themes of the journal will begin in 2015, featuring cutting-edge research.

The CBE also has a strong academic component within the Monterey Institute’s Master of Arts in International Environmental Policy (MAIEP) program and its concentration in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. Students in this concentration have unique opportunities to participate in impactful projects with prestigious government agencies, businesses, and NGOs around the world. Graduates of the MAIEP program continually receive Fulbright Awards, Sea Grant Fellowships, and top jobs in the ocean and coastal resource management field.

For more information on the CBE, please contact Program Manager Rachel Christopherson at rchristo@miis.edu or cbe@miis.edu.



Erich Pacheco during his internship with the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program in Papua New Guinea. Erich now works for Conservation International in Washington, D.C.



Laura Henson during her internship with UNESCO in Mozambique. Laura now serves as an Executive Fellow with the NOAA Sea Grant Program.



NOEP Director Judith Kildow, Congressman Sam Farr, and CBE Director Jason Scorse at the news conference announcing release of the 2014 NOEP National Report.



Alyssum Pohl during her internship with the World Wildlife Fund in Washington, D.C. Alyssum now works for NOAA.



Center for the Blue Economy

at the Monterey Institute of International Studies

go.miis.edu/cbe

Reflections on the Center for the Blue Economy

Professor Jason Scorse, Director of the Center for the Blue Economy (CBE) and Chair of the International Environmental Policy program, notes “There is nothing quite like the CBE in California, the country, or the world. Unlike traditional marine policy programs, the CBE’s central focus is on the economics, management, and human dimensions that are key to addressing our most

“Our goal is no less than to make the CBE and the Monterey Institute a global leader in both academic studies and research dedicated to ensuring that the full value of ocean and coastal resources is incorporated into policy decisions.”

— PROFESSOR JASON SCORSE, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR THE BLUE ECONOMY

pressing ocean and coastal resource management challenges.”

The CBE continues to receive major funding to support new faculty and staff, course development, and research opportunities for students. To date, the CBE has received over a million dollars from Deborah and Robin Hicks of the Loker Foundation, \$450,000 from Monterey Institute alumna Linda Hothem, and \$600,000 from an anonymous donor along with an additional \$1.2 million in matching grants.

This generous continued commitment has allowed the expansion of the CBE Summer Fellows Program, placing Monterey Institute students in fully-funded summer projects with the top organizations in the world. Between 2011 and 2014, the CBE has placed 33 interns with organizations including the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), UNESCO, Maersk, OneReef, and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) in countries ranging from the U.S., South Pacific Islands, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

The CBE continues to expand and update the National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP) to serve the growing needs of our research and policy users. NOEP will deliver a greater selection of data to help local communities estimate socioeconomic vulnerabilities resulting from climate change impacts along the U.S. coasts. A long-term goal includes building international consensus on definitions and methodologies for ocean

accounts so that they can be consistently estimated and compared globally. “The timing for the CBE is perfect,” concludes Professor Scorse, “because the most powerful currency in current policy discussions is economics and jobs. But in order to use our resources in a truly sustainable fashion we must also value our ocean and coastal natural capital and look at the long-run impacts of our decisions.”

Top Destination for Aspiring Ocean and Coastal Resource Management Professionals

The Center for the Blue Economy is located in downtown Monterey, a few blocks from the shoreline of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and in the midst of some of the world’s most prestigious marine institutions. The Monterey Bay area is today the nexus of marine research and policy studies on the North American continent. Throughout the year, Monterey Institute students have the opportunity to interact and collaborate with marine science and policy professionals from these outstanding institutions through the MARINE network (Monterey Area Research Institutions’ Network for Education). This unique combination of world-class academic and research programs makes the Monterey Institute a top destination for aspiring marine and coastal management professionals.

