



Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

Center for the Blue Economy

CBE 101

What is the mission of the Center for the Blue Economy (CBE)?

The CBE's mission is to provide leadership in research, education, and analytics to promote a sustainable Blue Economy

The Center for the Blue Economy (CBE) is only a little more three years old, but it is already serving a critical need in the ocean and coastal management space—developing a new cadre of bright young leaders through our academic program, conducting valuable research, greatly expanding the National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP), forging important domestic and international partnerships, and launching our new Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics (JOCE). The CBE is focused on the economics and management of ocean and coastal resources, which distinguishes us from other organizations and fills a critical need in the policy arena that will only become more important in the coming years.

What are the basic components of the CBE?

Professional Education

The CBE is housed within the International Environmental Policy (IEP) Program of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. The IEP program has approximately 50 full-time master's students, of which approximately 20 are currently pursuing the 16-credit, 4-course concentration in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

The CBE's concentration in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) was developed after consulting with more than 20 of the world's leading ocean and coastal resource management experts. OCRM graduates have done very well in the job market, with approximately 90% currently employed in the ocean and coastal resource management field. In addition, the IEP program has many alumni from over the past 15 years with careers throughout the marine policy field; they provide excellent networking opportunities and serve as guest speakers and advisors. Our students receive prestigious Sea Grant Fellowships almost every year.

Research and Data: National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP)

The NOEP was created in 1999 by Dr. Kildow at MIT and began producing its annual ocean economic databases with the subsequent hiring of Dr. Colgan the following year. While there were several articles and a report about the U.S. ocean economy published before 1999, the launch of the NOEP laid the foundation for a new field of study based on a unique methodology, with consistent time series data that allowed the public to track trends over time. During its 15-year history, NOEP has created the field of ocean and coastal economics, and its methodologies have been used by over 20 countries around the world. It is extremely well-respected in the U.S. and internationally, and it forms the foundation of the CBE research program. It has more than 2,000 regular users across all sectors and geographies in the U.S., and more than 37 nations. It is considered by many researchers to be the best source of data on ocean and coastal economics.

Scholarship and Analysis: Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics (JOCE)

As part of its community-building efforts and professional outreach, in 2013 the CBE began the development of its new *Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics* (JOCE), which launched in April, 2015. Until JOCE, those wishing to share research in this field outside of fisheries have used outlets that specialized in economics, but not specific to oceans and coasts. JOCE is the first in this growing field. With a distinguished editorial board and its open review process, JOCE will further solidify the CBE's position as the leader in the ocean and coastal economics field, and help foster an international community of researchers and practitioners. Upholding the CBE commitment to open access, the journal is freely available to all: there are no fees to authors or readers. Contracting with the Middlebury Institute's world-class translators, JOCE will provide abstracts of all papers in Arabic, Chinese, French, Korean, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Collaboration

The Center cannot accomplish its mission alone. We partner with many U.S. and international organizations to achieve our objectives, including NOAA's Office of Coastal Management, the Nature Conservancy, the Korean Maritime Institute, and the Chinese National Marine Data and Information Service. In addition, we host visiting scholars for residency of 3-12 months, who contribute greatly to our research. Generous donors support the CBE so that our public access databases can provide free information to thousands of users a year. In the summer of 2014 the CBE formed an Advisory Council, which includes leaders both locally and nationally with a vast array of expertise to help strengthen the CBE.

What are the key goals of the CBE?

The over-arching objective of the CBE is to demonstrate the interdependence of a healthy ocean and a strong economy.

To achieve these objectives the CBE has the following specific goals:

Education Goals

CBE seeks to educate the next generation of marine leaders, equipping them with essential interdisciplinary skills to synthesize complex information, manage diverse teams, produce original research, and help shape and direct the agenda for global marine policy and management. We hope to expand the number of students in the OCRM concentration by 50% over the next three years, help students secure good jobs or fellowships quickly upon graduation, and potentially create a dedicated master's degree program.

With respect to job placement, the goal is for all OCRM students to have secured full-time employment in the ocean and coastal resource management field within six months of graduation (or to secure prestigious fellowships, such as Fulbright and Sea Grant). Since 2011 we have had 21 OCRM graduates (class of 2015 not yet included) with approximately 90% currently employed in the ocean and coastal resource management field. .

Over the longer term, the hope is to transition the current academic OCRM concentration to a full-fledged master's degree program. In order to do this we would need to hire at least two more FTE faculty positions. With such a program, the CBE's academic profile would be significantly raised as this would be the only one of its kind in California.

Data and Research Goals

CBE seeks to expand the NOEP both domestically and internationally in order to further increase its user base and to assess where NOEP data and analyses are having a positive impact on decision-making and enhance these efforts.

Scholarship Goals

The CBE seeks to make JOCE the leading publication for research in ocean and coastal economics. The long-term success of JOCE will depend on continuing to attract a steady stream of high quality papers that will be of interest to a large and diverse audience. With this in mind, the Journal has adopted an open review process, is devoted to findings of immediate relevance to practitioners, and is making all of its article abstracts accessible in multiple languages.

Partnership Goals

The CBE seeks to develop formal and substantive domestic and international partnerships. Currently, the CBE has working relationships with the Ocean Economics Department of China in Beijing, Shanghai Ocean University, the Korean Maritime Institute (KMI), Center for Ocean Solutions, OneReef, and we are in beginning discussions with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) on future projects related to climate change adaptation. We are also in conversations with the Urban Coast Institute at Monmouth University and The Ocean Foundation, and we are working with NOAA and the Bureau of Economic Analysis to assist in the development of the next generation of U.S. ocean economy data. The goal is to continue to build these existing partnerships, which will include new student and faculty exchange, and build at least two long-term new partnerships over the next three years that include joint research and fund-raising.

What are the Center for the Blue Economy websites?

Center for the Blue Economy: <http://go.miis.edu/cbe>

National Ocean Economics Program: <http://oceanomics.org>

Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics: <http://cbe.miis.edu/joce/>

Who are the Center for the Blue Economy experts?

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