



Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

Center for the Blue Economy

What is the Center for the Blue Economy?

The Center for the Blue Economy is a cutting-edge research and academic center innovating new ways to address critical ocean and coastal management issues. The center's research demonstrates the tremendous value of ocean and coastal resources and the interdependence of a healthy ocean, well-managed coastline and a strong economy. The center's National Ocean Economics Program provides free, open-access data on economic, socioeconomic and natural resource trends, empowering business and government to make informed decisions as they balance conservation and growth in coastal areas. The center publishes the peer-reviewed *Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics*, the first journal devoted to research on the theory and practice of economics as applied to a broad range of ocean and coastal resources.

Why does the Blue Economy matter?

In 2014, the coastal economy contributed \$13 trillion dollars, or 83.7% of the total U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), as published in the National Ocean Economics Program's most recent "*State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies.*" There were 107.3 million employed, or 81.5% of total U.S. employment. Coastal states account for 82% of the U.S. population, and 80% of all U.S. imports and export freight is transported through seaports in coastal states. Even in the nation's heartland, inland economies are tied to the important economic activities generated at the coastline.

Why is understanding the Blue Economy more important now than ever?

Rising sea levels, powerful and unpredictable storms, and the degradation of such critical natural resources as coastal beaches and wetlands threaten to diminish the economic drivers that the nation has historically relied on. Understanding the economic contributions of the oceans and coasts to human welfare, current economic activities that undermine ocean health and mitigating climate change impacts are thus more important than ever.

How can the Center for the Blue Economy be a resource for journalists, government and business?

The Center for the Blue Economy's National Ocean Economics Program provides a full range of economic and demographic information available on changes and trends along the U.S. coast, Great Lakes, and coastal waters including:

- **Natural resources data:** fisheries and off-shore oil and gas production and values.
- **Non-market data:** valuation studies for resources not traded in the open market, like wetlands and surf breaks.
- **Ports and cargo information:** marine based foreign trade shipping volume and values.
- **Population and housing statistics** for the coastal states and shoreline regions.
- **Government expenditures:** federal marine expenditures from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.
- **Arctic data:** economic, socioeconomic and natural resource information.

The Center's experts can provide in-depth analysis and information on a wide range of ocean and coastal resource topics including international ocean accounts, marine sanctuaries, fisheries, and the economic effects of pollution.

Stories that will impact the Blue Economy in 2016:

Climate change and its impact on the economy: Trillions of dollars of infrastructure, businesses, real estate, and ecosystems are at risk in coastal regions, yet form the basis for the bulk of economic growth. How communities, states and nations adapt to climate change can mean the difference between fiscal growth and bankruptcy. The Center for the Blue Economy's research produces detailed cost-benefit analyses for various coastal adaptation strategies and alternative policy scenarios.

The Coastal Marketplace: The "Coastal Adaptation Marketplaces" research project is a collaboration between the Center for the Blue Economy and the Nature Conservancy, proposing a new approach to coastal permitting based on two market-based land use tools: transferable development rights and credit trading. (Think carbon cap and trade). Initial outcomes of this study show that indeed this marketplace approach is less hassle for homeowners while improving ecological impacts. The Nature Conservancy is pursuing funding for a more in-depth study that could be used to approach lawmakers for policy creation.

Economic analysis of "hot spots" in the Arctic: As the Arctic environment undergoes dramatic changes, the National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP) is delivering data for the public on the broad range of Arctic economic activities as this uncertain economy emerges. The purpose of tracking these changes is two-fold: 1) to provide accurate data on the status of the industry sectors currently operating in the Arctic, as well as those that emerge over time, to determine how those activities affect local populations and local economies, and 2) to track the scale, scope, and geography of those activities to show the degree of risk and threat they may pose to the already shifting and fragile Arctic environment. Our data will reveal "hot spots" of risk, where economic activities clash with high value marine life and other natural assets to cause concern.

Building international consensus for the value of the oceans: More than 20 nations have created ocean economy accounts, mostly in Europe, Asia, and North America. The CBE, in partnership with the U.S., China, Korea, and other nations, intends to build an alliance of coastal nations to clearly define the parameters and methodologies for measuring the ocean and coastal economies. The goal is to build international consensus and create a uniform and standardized set of measurements for the ocean and coastal economies around the world – a "Global Ocean Product." To that end, the Center for the Blue Economy hosted the Oceans in National Income Accounts Symposium on October 25-29, 2015, with the aim of drafting a consensus document for ocean accounts.

Websites:

Center for the Blue Economy: <http://centerfortheblueeconomy.org>

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

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

Scientists:

Dr. Jason Scorse, Director of the Center for the Blue Economy
jscorse@miis.edu, office: 831-647-3548

Dr. Judith Kildow, Director of the National Ocean Economics Program
jkildow@miis.edu, office: 831-264-5201

Dr. Charles Colgan, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics
ccolgan@miis.edu, office: 831-647-6615 x 8406