

Talking Points for Bob Cowen to Moderate NAML Briefing  
Coastal Intelligence  
October 24, 2019  
2325 Rayburn House Office Building  
Noon to 1:30PM

I would like to welcome you all today to this briefing on coastal intelligence – *we use the term **Coastal intelligence** to reference actionable research, monitoring and modeling information used by citizens, small businesses, industry and governments to make informed decisions; decisions that support and enhance resilient communities, economies, and healthy, sustainable marine ecosystems along our coastlines.*

Today's briefing is presented by the National Association of Marine Laboratories or NAML. I am Bob Cowen, President of NAML and Director of the Hatfield Marine Science Center at Oregon State University and I will be your moderator. I would like to thank the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee – and their staffs – for loaning us this room so we could conduct this briefing.

A quick word about NAML – NAML is a nonprofit organization representing the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes interests of more than 90 member laboratories that employ thousands of scientists, engineers and professionals nationwide. NAML labs conduct high quality research and education in the natural and social sciences and translate that science to improve decision-making on important issues facing local, state, regional, national and international entities. We regularly sit at the nexus of regional to national deliberations on marine issues.

Rising water temperatures along our coasts, ocean acidification, retreating arctic sea ice, sea level rise and resulting high-tide flooding, coastal erosion, and higher storm surge; and increasing episodes of extreme weather and associated extreme flooding events threaten not just our oceans and coasts, but the safety, security and economies of our citizens in both coastal and inland communities.

These and other effects are likely to continue. This will put ocean and marine species at risk, decrease the productivity of certain fisheries, and threaten communities that rely on marine ecosystems for livelihoods and recreation along all of our coasts.

Coastal communities and state agencies in the Pacific Northwest are preparing for “The Big One”. Residents, businesses and leaders are planning for potential earthquakes of up to magnitude 9.0 or higher, and resulting tsunamis. Economic impacts of such a major seismic event could top \$200 Billion.

To meet these challenges, decision makers should take full advantage of the existing storehouse of coastal intelligence and expertise found in our nation's network of marine and freshwater labs.

These same facilities should be called upon to support research and education that will generate new information and a workforce to help coastal and inland communities continue to **adapt, mitigate, and find solutions** in the face of these and other environmental challenges and to ensure strong, sustained economies.

We have four speakers this afternoon which will enable us to cover the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, and the Pacific. Each will talk about a particular coastal challenge facing their region and how science is helping decision makers and the impacted communities address that challenge.

Though time limits us to providing just these four examples, it is critical that you are aware of the breadth of expertise and knowledge available nationally through this nation's network of marine laboratories.

I will introduce our four panelists, ask them to each take no more than 10 minutes to make their presentation, and then open it up to your questions.

As you can see lunch is also available so, if you haven't already, grab a box lunch and something to drink, settle in, and we will get started.

-- Pause --

Our first speaker is ***Dr. Guy Meadows***, → **Founding Director of the Great Lakes Research Center, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan**

Next up will be ***Mr. Mike DeLuca*** → **Director of the New Jersey Aquaculture Innovation Center, Rutgers University and Manager of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, New Jersey**

Then ***Dr. Bob Dickey*** → **Director of the Univ. of Texas Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas, Texas.**

And finally ***Dr. Kristy Kroeker*** → **Associate Professor at the Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz**

We have biographical information available on each of our presenters on the table along with some other materials you are encouraged to take with you at the conclusion of this briefing.

I will now turn it over to our first speaker – **Dr. Guy Meadows**