

Interest Statement- Keelin S. Kuipers

Through my work with coastal states over the past six years, I have developed a strong interest in the application of social science and socio-economic information to coastal hazards decision-making, including weather related hazards. WAS*IS is an ideal opportunity to connect with other professionals interested in these issues, identify opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration, and be part of developing a strategy for moving forward the integration of social science with weather related decision making.

For the past three years, I have been working with the NOAA Coastal Storms Program (CSP), a cross-NOAA effort that provides integrated observations, forecast models, and decision support tools to help coastal communities prepare for, respond to and recover from coastal storms. CSP is currently working in Northeast Florida, the Lower Columbia River region of Oregon and Washington, and Southern California. CSP's next regional demonstration will take place in the Gulf of Mexico. CSP products are developed with input from partners and other stakeholders in each region. Wherever possible, NOAA CSP scientists and technical staff partner with academic institutions and government agencies (federal, state, regional) on product development and implementation. Each regional demonstration also includes an outreach and extension component in partnership with Sea Grant Extension. Examples of CSP products include:

- GIS based risk and vulnerability assessment tools that include socio-economic information to help communities develop hazard mitigation plans
- High resolution wave and atmospheric forecast models
- Enhanced oceanographic and meteorological observations

There are several areas where CSP is seeking to include social science in its efforts:

- Integrate socio-economic information into CSP products
- Use social science to help improve the needs assessment process CSP uses to identify potential products
- Use social science to improve the training, extension and outreach activities in order to enhance coastal and emergency managers' capacity to effectively use CSP products for storm related planning, response and recovery.

As CSP begins its Gulf of Mexico demonstration, the devastating impacts of Hurricane Katrina underscore the importance of addressing these issues.

Similarly, the NOAA Coasts, Estuaries and Oceans Program (CEO), of which CSP is a part, is seeking to significantly enhance the role of social science in addressing coastal weather and water events. The mission of the CEO program is to provide (1) risk and vulnerability mitigation information, products and services and (2) coastal and oceanic data in support of forecasts and numerical predictions.

Through WAS*IS, I hope to establish partnerships to help enhance the role of social science in CSP and CEO and, through my experience with the coastal and emergency management community, contribute to the broader discussion of the integration of social science and weather information. I look forward to the possibility of participating in WAS*IS.